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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To protect our democracy by preventing abuses of presidential power, restoring checks and balances and accountability and transparency in government, and defending elections against foreign interference, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. NEAL, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. DEAN, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. PORTER, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. SWALWELL of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To protect our democracy by preventing abuses of presidential power, restoring checks and balances and accountability and transparency in government, and defending elections against foreign interference, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Our Democ-  
3 racy Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF ACT INTO DIVISIONS; TABLE OF**  
5 **CONTENTS.**

6       (a) DIVISIONS.—This Act is organized into divisions  
7 as follows:

8           (1) Division A—Preventing Abuses of Presi-  
9 dential Power.

10          (2) Division B—Restoring Checks and Bal-  
11 ances, Accountability, and Transparency.

12          (3) Division C—Defending Elections Against  
13 Foreign Interference.

14          (4) Division D—Severability.

15       (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of  
16 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Organization of Act into divisions; table of contents.

**DIVISION A—PREVENTING ABUSES OF PRESIDENTIAL POWER**

**TITLE I—ABUSE OF THE PARDON POWER PREVENTION**

Sec. 101. Short title.

Sec. 102. Congressional oversight relating to certain pardons.

Sec. 103. Bribery in connection with pardons and commutations.

Sec. 104. Prohibition on presidential self-pardon.

**TITLE II—ENSURING NO PRESIDENT IS ABOVE THE LAW**

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Tolling of statute of limitations.

**TITLE III—ENFORCEMENT OF THE FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC  
EMOLUMENTS CLAUSES OF THE CONSTITUTION**

Sec. 301. Short title.

Sec. 302. Definitions.

- Sec. 303. Prohibition on acceptance of foreign and domestic emoluments.
- Sec. 304. Civil actions by Congress concerning foreign emoluments.
- Sec. 305. Disclosures concerning foreign and domestic emoluments.
- Sec. 306. Enforcement authority of the Director of the Office of Government Ethics.
- Sec. 307. Jurisdiction of the Office of Special Counsel.

## DIVISION B—RESTORING CHECKS AND BALANCES, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND TRANSPARENCY

### TITLE IV—ENFORCEMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL SUBPOENAS

- Sec. 401. Short title.
- Sec. 402. Findings.
- Sec. 403. Enforcement of congressional subpoenas.
- Sec. 404. Compliance with congressional subpoenas.
- Sec. 405. Rule of construction.

### TITLE V—REASSERTING CONGRESSIONAL POWER OF THE PURSE

- Sec. 500. Short title.

#### Subtitle A—Strengthening Congressional Control and Review to Prevent Impoundment

- Sec. 501. Strengthening congressional control.
- Sec. 502. Strengthening congressional review.
- Sec. 503. Updated authorities for and reporting by the Comptroller General.
- Sec. 504. Advance congressional notification and litigation.
- Sec. 505. Penalties for failure to comply with the Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

#### Subtitle B—Strengthening Transparency and Reporting

### PART 1—FUNDS MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING TO THE CONGRESS

- Sec. 511. Expired balance reporting in the President's budget.
- Sec. 512. Cancelled balance reporting in the President's budget.
- Sec. 513. Lapse in appropriations—Reporting in the President's budget.
- Sec. 514. Transfer and other repurposing authority reporting in the President's budget.
- Sec. 515. Authorizing cancellations in indefinite accounts by appropriation.

### PART 2—EMPOWERING CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW THROUGH NONPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL AGENCIES AND TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVES

- Sec. 521. Requirement to respond to requests for information from the Government Accountability Office for budget and appropriations law decisions.
- Sec. 522. Reporting requirements for Antideficiency Act violations.
- Sec. 523. Department of Justice reporting to Congress for Antideficiency Act violations.
- Sec. 524. Publication of budget or appropriations law opinions of the Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel.

#### Subtitle C—Strengthening Congressional Role in and Oversight of Emergency Declarations and Designations

- Sec. 531. Improving checks and balances on the use of the National Emergencies Act.
- Sec. 532. National Emergencies Act declaration spending reporting in the President's budget.
- Sec. 533. Disclosure to Congress of presidential emergency action documents.
- Sec. 534. Emergency and overseas contingency operations designations by Congress in statute.

## TITLE VI—SECURITY FROM POLITICAL INTERFERENCE IN JUSTICE

- Sec. 601. Short title.
- Sec. 602. Definitions.
- Sec. 603. Communications logs.
- Sec. 604. Rule of construction.

## TITLE VII—PROTECTING INSPECTOR GENERAL INDEPENDENCE

### Subtitle A—Requiring Cause for Removal

- Sec. 701. Short title.
- Sec. 702. Amendment.

### Subtitle B—Inspectors General of Intelligence Community

- Sec. 711. Independence of Inspectors General of the Intelligence Community.
- Sec. 712. Authority of Inspectors General of the Intelligence Community to determine matters of urgent concern.
- Sec. 713. Conforming amendments and coordination with other provisions of law.

### Subtitle C—Congressional Notification

- Sec. 721. Short title.
- Sec. 722. Congressional notification of change in status of Inspector General.
- Sec. 723. Presidential explanation of failure to nominate an Inspector General.

## TITLE VIII—PROTECTING WHISTLEBLOWERS

### Subtitle A—Whistleblower Protection Improvement

- Sec. 801. Short title.
- Sec. 802. Additional whistleblower protections.
- Sec. 803. Enhancement of whistleblower protections.
- Sec. 804. Classifying certain furloughs as adverse personnel actions.
- Sec. 805. Codification of protections for disclosures of censorship related to research, analysis, or technical information.
- Sec. 806. Technical and conforming amendments.

### Subtitle B—Reauthorization of Merit Systems Protection Board

- Sec. 811. Short title.
- Sec. 812. Reauthorization of Merit Systems Protection Board.
- Sec. 813. Authorization of Federal employee surveys for merit systems studies.
- Sec. 814. Whistleblower training for MSPB administrative judges.

### Subtitle C—Whistleblowers of the Intelligence Community

- Sec. 821. Limitation on sharing of intelligence community whistleblower complaints with persons named in such complaints.
- Sec. 822. Disclosures to Congress.
- Sec. 823. Prohibition against disclosure of whistleblower identity as reprisal against whistleblower disclosure by employees and contractors in intelligence community.

#### TITLE IX—ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ACTING OFFICIALS

- Sec. 901. Short title.
- Sec. 902. Clarification of Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998.

#### TITLE X—STRENGTHENING HATCH ACT ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

- Sec. 1001. Short title.
- Sec. 1002. Strengthening Hatch Act enforcement and penalties against political appointees.

#### DIVISION C—DEFENDING ELECTIONS AGAINST FOREIGN INTERFERENCE

#### TITLE XI—REPORTING FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN ELECTIONS

- Sec. 1101. Federal campaign reporting of foreign contacts.
- Sec. 1102. Federal campaign foreign contact reporting compliance system.
- Sec. 1103. Criminal penalties.
- Sec. 1104. Report to congressional intelligence committees.
- Sec. 1105. Rule of construction.

#### TITLE XII—ELIMINATING FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN ELECTIONS

- Sec. 1201. Clarification of application of foreign money ban.
- Sec. 1202. Requiring acknowledgment of foreign money ban by political committees.

#### DIVISION D—SEVERABILITY

#### TITLE XIII—SEVERABILITY

- Sec. 1301. Severability.

1 **DIVISION A—PREVENTING**  
2 **ABUSES OF PRESIDENTIAL**  
3 **POWER**  
4 **TITLE I—ABUSE OF THE PARDON**  
5 **POWER PREVENTION**

6 **SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.**

7 This title may be cited as the “Abuse of the Pardon  
8 Power Prevention Act”.

9 **SEC. 102. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT RELATING TO CER-**  
10 **TAIN PARDONS.**

11 (a) SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION.—In the event  
12 that the President grants an individual a pardon for a cov-  
13 ered offense, not later than 30 days after the date of such  
14 pardon—

15 (1) the Attorney General shall submit to the  
16 chairmen and ranking minority members of the ap-  
17 propriate congressional committees—

18 (A) all materials obtained or produced by  
19 the prosecution team, including the Attorney  
20 General and any United States Attorney, and  
21 all materials obtained or prepared by any inves-  
22 tigative agency of the United States govern-  
23 ment, relating to the offense for which the indi-  
24 vidual was so pardoned; and

1 (B) all materials obtained or produced by  
2 the Department of Justice in relation to the  
3 pardon; and

4 (2) the President shall submit to the chairmen  
5 and ranking minority members of the appropriate  
6 congressional committees all materials obtained or  
7 produced within the Executive Office of the Presi-  
8 dent in relation to the pardon.

9 (b) TREATMENT OF INFORMATION.—Rule 6(e) of the  
10 Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure may not be con-  
11 strued to prohibit the disclosure of information required  
12 by subsection (a) of this section.

13 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 (1) The term “appropriate congressional com-  
15 mittees” means—

16 (A) the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
17 House of Representatives and the Committee  
18 on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

19 (B) if an investigation relates to intel-  
20 ligence or counterintelligence matters, the Per-  
21 manent Select Committee on Intelligence of the  
22 House of Representatives and the Select Com-  
23 mittee on Intelligence of the Senate.

24 (2) The term “covered offense” means—

1 (A) an offense against the United States  
2 that arises from an investigation in which the  
3 President, or a relative of the President, is a  
4 target or subject;

5 (B) an offense under section 192 of title 2,  
6 United States Code; or

7 (C) an offense under section 1001, 1505,  
8 1512, or 1621 of title 18, United States Code,  
9 provided that the offense occurred in relation to  
10 a Congressional proceeding or investigation.

11 (3) The term “pardon” includes a commutation  
12 of sentence.

13 (4) The term “relative” has the meaning given  
14 that term in section 3110(a) of title 5, United  
15 States Code.

16 **SEC. 103. BRIBERY IN CONNECTION WITH PARDONS AND**  
17 **COMMUTATIONS.**

18 Section 201 of title 18, United States Code, is  
19 amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, in-  
22 cluding the President and the Vice President of  
23 the United States,” after “or an officer or em-  
24 ployee or person”; and



1 (B) in paragraph (3), by inserting before  
2 the period at the end the following: “, including  
3 any pardon, commutation, or reprieve, or an  
4 offer of any such pardon, commutation, or re-  
5 prieve”; and

6 (2) in subsection (b)(3), by inserting “(includ-  
7 ing, for purposes of this paragraph, any pardon,  
8 commutation, or reprieve, or an offer of any such  
9 pardon, commutation, or reprieve)” after “corruptly  
10 gives, offers, or promises anything of value”.

11 **SEC. 104. PROHIBITION ON PRESIDENTIAL SELF-PARDON.**

12 The President’s grant of a pardon to himself or her-  
13 self is void and of no effect, and shall not deprive the  
14 courts of jurisdiction, or operate to confer on the Presi-  
15 dent any legal immunity from investigation or prosecution.

16 **TITLE II—ENSURING NO**  
17 **PRESIDENT IS ABOVE THE LAW**

18 **SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.**

19 This title may be cited as the “No President is Above  
20 the Law Act”.

21 **SEC. 202. TOLLING OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.**

22 (a) OFFENSES COMMITTED BY THE PRESIDENT OR  
23 VICE PRESIDENT DURING OR PRIOR TO TENURE IN OF-  
24 FICE.—Section 3282 of title 18, United States Code, is  
25 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(c) OFFENSES COMMITTED BY THE PRESIDENT OR  
2 VICE PRESIDENT DURING OR PRIOR TO TENURE IN OF-  
3 FICE.—In the case of any person serving as President or  
4 Vice President of the United States, the duration of that  
5 person’s tenure in office shall not be considered for pur-  
6 poses of any statute of limitations applicable to any Fed-  
7 eral criminal offense committed by that person (including  
8 any offenses committed during any period of time pre-  
9 ceding such tenure in office).”.

10 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sub-  
11 section (a) shall apply to any offense committed before the  
12 date of the enactment of this section, if the statute of limi-  
13 tations applicable to that offense had not run as of such  
14 date.

15 **TITLE III—ENFORCEMENT OF**  
16 **THE FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC**  
17 **EMOLUMENTS CLAUSES OF**  
18 **THE CONSTITUTION**

19 **SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.**

20 This title may be cited as the “Foreign and Domestic  
21 Emoluments Enforcement Act”.

22 **SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this title:

24 (1) The term “emolument” means any profit,  
25 gain, or advantage that is received directly or indi-

1 rectly from any government of a foreign country, the  
2 Federal government, or any State or local govern-  
3 ment, or from any instrumentality thereof, including  
4 payments arising from commercial transactions at  
5 fair market value.

6 (2) The term “person holding any office of  
7 profit or trust under the United States” includes the  
8 President of the United States and the Vice-Presi-  
9 dent of the United States.

10 (3) The term “government of a foreign coun-  
11 try” has the meaning given such term in section 1(e)  
12 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (22 U.S.C.  
13 611(e)).

14 **SEC. 303. PROHIBITION ON ACCEPTANCE OF FOREIGN AND**  
15 **DOMESTIC EMOLUMENTS.**

16 (a) FOREIGN.—Except as otherwise provided in sec-  
17 tion 7342 of title 5, United States Code, it shall be unlaw-  
18 ful for any person holding an office of profit or trust under  
19 the United States to accept from a government of a for-  
20 eign country, without first obtaining the consent of Con-  
21 gress, any present or emolument, or any office or title.  
22 The prohibition under this subsection applies without re-  
23 gard to whether the present, emolument, office, or title  
24 is—

1 (1) provided directly or indirectly by that gov-  
2 ernment of a foreign country; or

3 (2) provided to that person or to any private  
4 business interest of that person.

5 (b) DOMESTIC.—It shall be unlawful for the Presi-  
6 dent to accept from the United States, or any of them,  
7 any emolument other than the compensation for his or her  
8 services as President provided for by Federal law. The  
9 prohibition under this subsection applies without regard  
10 to whether the emolument is provided directly or indi-  
11 rectly, and without regard to whether the emolument is  
12 provided to the President or to any private business inter-  
13 est of the President.

14 **SEC. 304. CIVIL ACTIONS BY CONGRESS CONCERNING FOR-**  
15 **EIGN EMOLUMENTS.**

16 (a) CAUSE OF ACTION.—The House of Representa-  
17 tives or the Senate may bring a civil action against any  
18 person for a violation of subsection (a) of section 303.

19 (b) SPECIAL RULES.—In any civil action described  
20 in subsection (a), the following rules shall apply:

21 (1) The action shall be filed before the United  
22 States District Court for the District of Columbia.

23 (2) The action shall be heard by a three-judge  
24 court convened pursuant to section 2284 of title 28,  
25 United States Code. It shall be the duty of such

1 court to advance on the docket and to expedite to  
2 the greatest possible extent the disposition of any  
3 such action. Such action shall be reviewable only by  
4 appeal directly to the Supreme Court of the United  
5 States. Such appeal shall be taken by the filing of  
6 a notice of appeal within 10 days, and the filing of  
7 a jurisdictional statement within 30 days, of the  
8 entry of the final decision.

9 (3) It shall be the duty of the Supreme Court  
10 of the United States to advance on the docket and  
11 to expedite to the greatest possible extent the dis-  
12 position of any such action and appeal.

13 (c) REMEDY.—If the court determines that a viola-  
14 tion of subsection (a) of section 303 has occurred, the  
15 court shall issue an order enjoining the course of conduct  
16 found to constitute the violation, and such of the following  
17 as are appropriate:

18 (1) The disgorgement of the value of any for-  
19 eign present or emolument.

20 (2) The surrender of the physical present or  
21 emolument to the Department of State, which shall,  
22 if practicable, dispose of the present or emolument  
23 and deposit the proceeds into the United States  
24 Treasury.

1           (3) The renunciation of any office or title ac-  
2           cepted in violation of such subsection.

3           (4) A prohibition on the use or holding of such  
4           an office or title.

5           (5) Such other relief as the court determines  
6           appropriate.

7           (d) USE OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS PROHIBITED.—No  
8           appropriated funds, funds provided from any accounts in  
9           the United States Treasury, funds derived from the collec-  
10          tion of fees, or any other Government funds shall be used  
11          to pay any disgorgement imposed by the court pursuant  
12          to this section.

13   **SEC. 305. DISCLOSURES CONCERNING FOREIGN AND DO-**  
14                           **MESTIC EMOLUMENTS.**

15          (a) DISCLOSURES.—Section 102(a) of the Ethics in  
16          Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by  
17          adding at the end the following:

18               “(9) Any present, emolument, office, or title re-  
19               ceived from a government of a foreign country, in-  
20               cluding the source, date, type, and amount or value  
21               of each present or emolument accepted on or before  
22               the date of filing during the preceding calendar year.

23               “(10) Each business interest that is reasonably  
24               expected to result in the receipt of any present or

1       emolument from a government of a foreign country  
2       during the current calendar year.

3           “(11) In addition, the President shall report—

4               “(A) any emolument received from the  
5               United States, or any of them, other than the  
6               compensation for his or her services as Presi-  
7               dent provided for by Federal law; and

8               “(B) any business interest that is reason-  
9               ably expected to result in the receipt of any  
10              emolument from the United States, or any of  
11              them.”.

12       (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the  
13       amendments made by this section shall be construed to  
14       affect the prohibition against the acceptance of presents  
15       and emoluments under section 303.

16       **SEC. 306. ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR**  
17               **OF THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS.**

18       (a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—Section 402(a) of the  
19       Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is  
20       amended—

21           (1) by striking “(a) The Director” and insert-  
22           ing “(a)(1) The Director”; and

23           (2) by adding at the end the following new  
24           paragraph:

1       “(2) The Director shall provide overall direction of  
2 executive branch policies related to compliance with the  
3 Foreign and Domestic Emoluments Enforcement Act and  
4 the amendments made by such Act and shall have the au-  
5 thority to—

6           “(A) issue administrative fines to individuals  
7 for violations;

8           “(B) order individuals to take corrective action,  
9 including disgorgement, divestiture, and recusal, as  
10 the Director deems necessary; and

11          “(C) bring civil actions to enforce such fines  
12 and orders.”.

13       (b) SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.—Section 402(b) of such  
14 Act (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

15           (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph  
16 (14);

17           (2) by striking the period at the end of para-  
18 graph (15) and inserting “; and”; and

19           (3) by adding at the end the following new  
20 paragraph:

21           “(16) developing and promulgating rules and  
22 regulations to ensure compliance with the Foreign  
23 and Domestic Emoluments Enforcement Act and the  
24 amendments made by such Act, including estab-  
25 lishing—



1           “(A) requirements for reporting and disclo-  
2           sure;

3           “(B) a schedule of administrative fines  
4           that may be imposed by the Director for viola-  
5           tions; and

6           “(C) a process for referral of matters to  
7           the Office of Special Counsel for investigation  
8           in compliance with section 1216(d) of title 5,  
9           United States Code.”.

10 **SEC. 307. JURISDICTION OF THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL**  
11 **COUNSEL.**

12       Section 1216 of title 5, United States Code, is  
13 amended—

14       (1) in subsection (a)—

15           (A) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at  
16           the end;

17           (B) in paragraph (5) by striking the period  
18           and inserting “; and”; and

19           (C) by adding at the end the following:

20           “(6) any violation of section 303 of the Foreign  
21           and Domestic Emoluments Enforcement Act or of  
22           the amendments made by section 305 of such Act.”;  
23           and

24       (2) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(d) If the Director of the Office of Government Eth-  
2 ics refers a matter for investigation pursuant to section  
3 402 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, or if the  
4 Special Counsel receives a credible complaint of a violation  
5 referred to in subsection (a)(6), the Special Counsel shall  
6 complete an investigation not later than 120 days there-  
7 after. If the Special Counsel investigates any violation pur-  
8 suant to subsection (a)(6), the Special Counsel shall re-  
9 port not later than 7 days after the completion of such  
10 investigation to the Director of the Office of Government  
11 Ethics and to Congress on the results of such investiga-  
12 tion.”.

13 **DIVISION B—RESTORING**  
14 **CHECKS AND BALANCES, AC-**  
15 **COUNTABILITY, AND TRANS-**  
16 **PARENCY**  
17 **TITLE IV—ENFORCEMENT OF**  
18 **CONGRESSIONAL SUBPOENAS**

19 **SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.**

20 This title may be cited as the “Congressional Sub-  
21 poena Compliance and Enforcement Act”.

22 **SEC. 402. FINDINGS.**

23 The Congress finds as follows:

24 (1) As the Supreme Court has repeatedly af-  
25 firmed, including in its July 9, 2020 holding in

1 Trump v. Mazars, Congress’s “power of inquiry—  
2 with process to enforce it—is an essential and ap-  
3 propriate auxiliary to the legislative function”.  
4 Congress’s power to obtain information, including  
5 through the issuance of subpoenas and the enforce-  
6 ment of such subpoenas, is “broad and indispen-  
7 sable”.

8 (2) Congress “suffers a concrete and particular-  
9 ized injury when denied the opportunity to obtain in-  
10 formation necessary” to the exercise of its constitu-  
11 tional functions, as the U.S. Court of Appeals for  
12 the District of Columbia Circuit correctly recognized  
13 in its August 7, 2020 en banc decision in Committee  
14 on the Judiciary of the U.S. House of Representa-  
15 tives v. McGahn.

16 (3) Accordingly, the Constitution secures to  
17 each House of Congress an inherent right to enforce  
18 its subpoenas in court. Explicit statutory authoriza-  
19 tion is not required to secure such a right of action,  
20 and the contrary holding by a divided panel of the  
21 U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia  
22 Circuit in McGahn, entered on August 31, 2020,  
23 was in error.

1 **SEC. 403. ENFORCEMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL SUBPOENAS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 85 of title 28, United  
3 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1365  
4 the following:

5 **“§ 1365a. Congressional actions against subpoena re-**  
6 **ipients**

7 “(a) CAUSE OF ACTION.—The United States House  
8 of Representatives, the United States Senate, or a com-  
9 mittee or subcommittee thereof, may bring a civil action  
10 against the recipient of a subpoena issued by a congres-  
11 sional committee or subcommittee to enforce compliance  
12 with the subpoena.

13 “(b) SPECIAL RULES.—In any civil action described  
14 in subsection (a), the following rules shall apply:

15 “(1) The action may be filed in a United States  
16 district court of competent jurisdiction.

17 “(2) Notwithstanding section 1657(a), it shall  
18 be the duty of every court of the United States to  
19 expedite to the greatest possible extent the disposi-  
20 tion of any such action and appeal. Upon a showing  
21 by the plaintiff of undue delay, other irreparable  
22 harm, or good cause, a court to which an appeal of  
23 the action may be taken shall issue any necessary  
24 and appropriate writs and orders to ensure compli-  
25 ance with this paragraph.

1           “(3) If a three-judge court is expressly re-  
2           requested by the plaintiff in the initial pleading, the  
3           action shall be heard by a three-judge court con-  
4           vened pursuant to section 2284, and shall be review-  
5           able only by appeal directly to the Supreme Court of  
6           the United States. Such appeal shall be taken by the  
7           filing of a notice of appeal within 10 days, and the  
8           filing of a jurisdictional statement within 30 days, of  
9           the entry of the final decision.

10          “(c) PENALTIES.—

11               “(1) CASES INVOLVING GOVERNMENT AGEN-  
12               CIES.—

13                       “(A) IN GENERAL.—The court may impose  
14                       monetary penalties directly against each head of  
15                       a Government agency and the head of each  
16                       component thereof held to have knowingly failed  
17                       to comply with any part of a congressional sub-  
18                       poena.

19                       “(B) PROHIBITION ON USE OF GOVERN-  
20                       MENT FUNDS.—No appropriated funds, funds  
21                       provided from any accounts in the Treasury,  
22                       funds derived from the collection of fees, or  
23                       other Government funds shall be used to pay  
24                       any monetary penalty imposed by the court  
25                       pursuant to this paragraph.

1           “(2) LEGAL FEES.—In addition to any other  
2       penalties or sanctions, the court shall require that  
3       any defendant, other than a Government agency,  
4       held to have willfully failed to comply with any part  
5       of a congressional subpoena, pay a penalty in an  
6       amount equal to that party’s legal fees, including at-  
7       torney’s fees, litigation expenses, and other costs. If  
8       such defendant if is an officer or employee of a Gov-  
9       ernment agency, such fees may be paid from funds  
10      appropriated to pay the salary of the defendant.

11       “(d) WAIVER.—Any ground for noncompliance as-  
12      serted by the recipient of a congressional subpoena shall  
13      be deemed to have been waived as to any particular infor-  
14      mation withheld from production if the court finds that  
15      the recipient failed in a timely manner to comply with the  
16      requirements of section 105(b) of the Revised Statutes of  
17      the United States with respect to such information.

18       “(e) RULES OF PROCEDURE.—The Supreme Court  
19      and the Judicial Conference of the United States shall  
20      prescribe rules of procedure to ensure the expeditious  
21      treatment of actions described in subsection (a). Such  
22      rules shall be prescribed and submitted to the Congress  
23      pursuant to sections 2072, 2073, and 2074. This shall in-  
24      clude procedures for expeditiously considering any asser-  
25      tion of constitutional or Federal statutory privilege made

1 in connection with testimony by any recipient of a sub-  
2 poena from a congressional committee or subcommittee.  
3 The Supreme Court shall transmit such rules to Congress  
4 within 6 months after the effective date of this section and  
5 then pursuant to section 2074 thereafter.

6 “(f) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the  
7 term ‘Government agency’ means any office or entity de-  
8 scribed in section 105 and 106 of title 3, an executive de-  
9 partment listed in section 101 of title 5, an independent  
10 establishment, commission, board, bureau, division, or of-  
11 fice in the executive branch, or other agency or instrumen-  
12 tality of the Federal Government, including wholly or part-  
13 ly owned Government corporations.”.

14 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
15 for chapter 85 of title 28, United States Code, is amended  
16 by inserting after the item relating to section 1365 the  
17 following:

“1365a. Congressional actions against subpoena recipients.”.

18 **SEC. 404. COMPLIANCE WITH CONGRESSIONAL SUB-**  
19 **POENAS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title II of the Re-  
21 vised Statutes of the United States (2 U.S.C. 191 et seq.)  
22 is amended—

23 (1) by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 105. RESPONSE TO CONGRESSIONAL SUBPOENAS.**

2 “(a) SUBPOENA BY CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE.—

3 Any recipient of any subpoena from a congressional com-  
4 mittee or subcommittee shall appear and testify, produce,  
5 or otherwise disclose information in a manner consistent  
6 with the subpoena and this section.

7 “(b) FAILURE TO PRODUCE INFORMATION.—

8 “(1) GROUNDS FOR WITHHOLDING INFORMA-  
9 TION.—Unless required by the Constitution or by  
10 Federal statute, no claim of privilege or protection  
11 from disclosure shall be a ground for withholding in-  
12 formation responsive to the subpoena or required by  
13 this section.

14 “(2) IDENTIFICATION OF INFORMATION WITH-  
15 HELD.—In the case of information that is withheld,  
16 in whole or in part, by the subpoena recipient, the  
17 subpoena recipient shall, without delay provide a log  
18 containing the following:

19 “(A) An express assertion and description  
20 of the ground asserted for withholding the in-  
21 formation.

22 “(B) The type of information.

23 “(C) The general subject matter.

24 “(D) The date, author, and addressee.

25 “(E) The relationship of the author and  
26 addressee to each other.



1 “(F) The custodian of the information.

2 “(G) Any other descriptive information  
3 that may be produced or disclosed regarding  
4 the information that will enable the congres-  
5 sional committee or subcommittee issuing the  
6 subpoena to assess the ground asserted for  
7 withholding the information.

8 “(c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section the  
9 term ‘information’ includes any books, papers, documents,  
10 data, or other objects requested in a subpoena issued by  
11 a congressional committee or subcommittee.”; and

12 (2) in section 104, by striking the period at the  
13 end and inserting the following:

14 “, or the Attorney General for the District of Colum-  
15 bia, in which case, notwithstanding section 23–101, Dis-  
16 trict of Columbia Official Code, the offense may be pros-  
17 ecuted by the Attorney General for the District of Colum-  
18 bia, and shall be punishable by a fine of not more than  
19 \$1,000 and imprisonment of not more than 12 months.”.

20 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
21 for chapter 7 of title II of the Revised Statutes of the  
22 United States is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
23 lowing:

“105. Response to congressional subpoenas.”.

1 **SEC. 405. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

2       Nothing in this title may be interpreted to limit or  
3 constrain Congress' inherent authority or foreclose any  
4 other means for enforcing compliance with congressional  
5 subpoenas, nor may anything in this title be interpreted  
6 to establish or recognize any ground for noncompliance  
7 with a congressional subpoena.

8 **TITLE V—REASSERTING CON-**  
9 **GRESSIONAL POWER OF THE**  
10 **PURSE**

11 **SEC. 500. SHORT TITLE.**

12       This title may be cited as the “Congressional Power  
13 of the Purse Act”.

14 **Subtitle A—Strengthening Con-**  
15 **gressional Control and Review**  
16 **to Prevent Impoundment**

17 **SEC. 501. STRENGTHENING CONGRESSIONAL CONTROL.**

18       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Impoundment Control Act of  
19 1974 (2 U.S.C. 681 et seq.) is amended by adding at the  
20 end the following:

21 “PRUDENT OBLIGATION OF BUDGET AUTHORITY AND  
22 SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPIRING BUDGET  
23 AUTHORITY

24 “SEC. 1018. (a) SPECIAL MESSAGE REQUIRE-  
25 MENT.—With respect to budget authority proposed to be  
26 rescinded or that is set to be reserved or proposed to be

1 deferred in a special message transmitted under section  
2 1012 or 1013, such budget authority—

3 “(1) shall be made available for obligation in  
4 sufficient time to be prudently obligated as required  
5 under section 1012(b) or 1013; and

6 “(2) may not be deferred or otherwise withheld  
7 from obligation during the 90-day period before the  
8 expiration of the period of availability of such budget  
9 authority, including, if applicable, the 90-day period  
10 before the expiration of an initial period of avail-  
11 ability for which such budget authority was pro-  
12 vided.

13 “(b) ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENT.—With respect  
14 to an apportionment of an appropriation (as that term is  
15 defined in section 1511 of title 31, United States Code)  
16 made pursuant to section 1512 of such title, an appropria-  
17 tion shall be apportioned—

18 “(1) to make available all amounts for obliga-  
19 tion in sufficient time to be prudently obligated; and

20 “(2) to make available all amounts for obliga-  
21 tion, without precondition or limitation (including  
22 footnotes) that shall be met prior to obligation, not  
23 later than 90 days before the expiration of the pe-  
24 riod of availability of such appropriation, including,  
25 if applicable, 90 days before the expiration of an ini-

1 tial period of availability for which such appropri-  
2 tion was provided.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 set forth in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by adding after the item relating to section 1017 the following:

“1018. Prudent obligation of budget authority and specific requirements for expiring budget authority.”.

## 8 SEC. 502. STRENGTHENING CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW.

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Impoundment Control Act of  
10 1974 (2 U.S.C. 681 et seq.), as amended by section  
11 501(a), is further amended by adding at the end the fol-  
12 lowing:

13 “REPORTING

14       “SEC. 1019. (a) APPORTIONMENT OF APPROPRIA-  
15       TIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Office of Management and Budget shall complete implementation of an automated system to post each document apportioning an appropriation, pursuant to section 1513(b) of title 31, United States Code, including any associated footnotes, in a format that qualifies each such document as an Open Government Data Asset (as defined in section 3502 of title

1 44, United States Code), not later than 2 business  
2 days after the date of approval of such apportion-  
3 ment, and shall place on such website each docu-  
4 ment apportioning an appropriation, pursuant to  
5 such section 1513(b), including any associated foot-  
6 notes, already approved for the fiscal year, and shall  
7 report the date of completion of such requirements  
8 to the Committees on the Budget and Appropria-  
9 tions of the House of Representatives and Senate.

10 “(2) EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.—Each docu-  
11 ment apportioning an appropriation posted on a  
12 publicly accessible website under paragraph (1) shall  
13 also include a written explanation by the official ap-  
14 proving each such apportionment (pursuant to sec-  
15 tion 1513(b) of title 31, United States Code) of the  
16 rationale for the apportionment schedule and for any  
17 footnotes.

18 “(3) SPECIAL PROCESS FOR TRANSMITTING  
19 CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTATION TO THE CONGRESS.—  
20 The Office of Management and Budget or the appli-  
21 cable department or agency shall make available  
22 classified documentation relating to apportionment  
23 to appropriate congressional committees on a sched-  
24 ule to be determined by each such committee.

1           “(4) DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY REPORT.—

2           Each department or agency shall notify the Commit-  
3           tees on the Budget and Appropriations of the House  
4           of Representatives and the Senate and any other ap-  
5           propriate congressional committees if—

6                   “(A) an apportionment is not made in the  
7                   required time period provided in section  
8                   1513(b) of title 31, United States Code;

9                   “(B) an approved apportionment received  
10                  by the department or agency conditions the  
11                  availability of an appropriation on further ac-  
12                  tion; or

13                  “(C) an approved apportionment received  
14                  by the department or agency may hinder the  
15                  prudent obligation of such appropriation or the  
16                  execution of a program, project, or activity by  
17                  such department or agency;

18           and such notification shall contain information iden-  
19           tifying the bureau, account name, appropriation  
20           name, and Treasury Appropriation Fund Symbol or  
21           fund account.

22           “(b) APPROVING OFFICIALS.—

23                   “(1) DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.—Not later  
24           than 15 days after the date of enactment of this sec-  
25           tion, any delegation of apportionment authority pur-

1        suant to section 1513(b) of title 31, United States  
2        Code that is in effect as of such date shall be sub-  
3        mitted for publication in the Federal Register. Any  
4        delegation of such apportionment authority after the  
5        date of enactment of this section shall, on the date  
6        of such delegation, be submitted for publication in  
7        the Federal Register. The Office of Management  
8        and Budget shall publish such delegations in a for-  
9        mat that qualifies such publications as an Open  
10       Government Data Asset (as defined in section 3502  
11       of title 44, United States Code) on a public Internet  
12       website, which shall be continuously updated with  
13       the position of each Federal officer or employee to  
14       whom apportionment authority has been delegated.

15            “(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 5  
16        days after any change in the position of the approv-  
17        ing official with respect to such delegated apportion-  
18        ment authority for any account is made, the Office  
19        shall submit a report to the Congress explaining why  
20        such change was made.”.

21        (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
22        of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control  
23        Act of 1974 set forth in section 1(b) of such Act, as  
24        amended by section 501(b), is further amended by adding  
25        after the item relating to section 1018 the following:

“1019. Reporting.”.

1   **SEC. 503. UPDATED AUTHORITIES FOR AND REPORTING BY**  
2                   **THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL.**

3           (a) Section 1015 of the Impoundment Control Act  
4 of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 686) is amended—

5               (1) in subsection (a), in the matter following  
6 paragraph (2), by striking the last sentence; and

7               (2) by adding at the end the following:

8           “(c) REVIEW.—

9               “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General  
10 shall review compliance with this part and shall sub-  
11 mit to the Committees on the Budget, Appropria-  
12 tions, and Oversight and Reform of the House of  
13 Representatives, the Committees on the Budget, Ap-  
14 propriations, and Homeland Security and Govern-  
15 mental Affairs of the Senate, and any other appro-  
16 priate congressional committee of the House of Rep-  
17 resentatives and Senate a report, and any relevant  
18 information related to the report, on any noncompli-  
19 ance with this part.

20               “(2) INFORMATION, DOCUMENTATION, AND  
21 VIEWS.—The President or the head of the relevant  
22 department or agency of the United States shall pro-  
23 vide information, documentation, and views to the  
24 Comptroller General, as is determined by the Comp-  
25 troller General to be necessary to determine such  
26 compliance, not later than 20 days after the date on



1       which the request from the Comptroller General is  
2       received, or if the Comptroller General determines  
3       that a shorter or longer period is appropriate based  
4       on the specific circumstances, within such shorter or  
5       longer period.

6               “(3) ACCESS.—To carry out the responsibilities  
7       of this part, the Comptroller General shall also have  
8       access to interview the officers, employees, contrac-  
9       tors, and other agents and representatives of a de-  
10      partment, agency, or office of the United States at  
11      any reasonable time as the Comptroller General may  
12      request.”.

13      (b) Section 1001 of the Impoundment Control Act  
14      of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 681) is amended—

15              (1) in paragraph (3), by striking the “or” at  
16      the end of the paragraph;

17              (2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at  
18      the end and inserting a semicolon; and

19              (3) by adding at the end the following:

20               “(5) affecting or limiting in any way the au-  
21      thorities provided to the Comptroller General under  
22      chapter 7 of title 31, United States Code.”.

1   **SEC. 504. ADVANCE CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION AND**  
2                           **LITIGATION.**

3           Section 1016 of the Impoundment Control Act of  
4   1974 (2 U.S.C. 687) is amended to read as follows:

5                       “SUITS BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL

6           “SEC. 1016. If, under this chapter, budget authority  
7   is required to be made available for obligation and such  
8   budget authority is not made available for obligation or  
9   information, documentation, views, or access are required  
10   to be produced and such information, documentation,  
11   views, or access are not produced, the Comptroller General  
12   is expressly empowered, through attorneys of their own  
13   selection, to bring a civil action in the United States Dis-  
14   trict Court for the District of Columbia to require such  
15   budget authority to be made available for obligation or  
16   such information, documentation, views, or access to be  
17   produced, and such court is expressly empowered to enter  
18   in such civil action, against any department, agency, offi-  
19   cer, or employee of the United States, any decree, judg-  
20   ment, or order which may be necessary or appropriate to  
21   make such budget authority available for obligation or  
22   compel production of such information, documentation,  
23   views, or access. No civil action shall be brought by the  
24   Comptroller General to require budget authority be made  
25   available under this section until the expiration of 15 cal-  
26   endar days following the date on which an explanatory

1 statement by the Comptroller General of the cir-  
2 cumstances giving rise to the action contemplated is filed  
3 with the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the  
4 President of the Senate, except that expiration of such pe-  
5 riod shall not be required if the Comptroller General finds  
6 (and incorporates the finding in the explanatory statement  
7 filed) that the delay would be contrary to the public inter-  
8 est.”.

9 **SEC. 505. PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE**  
10 **IMPOUNDMENT CONTROL ACT OF 1974.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Impoundment Control Act of  
12 1974 (2 U.S.C. 681 et seq.), as amended by section  
13 502(a), is further amended by adding at the end the fol-  
14 lowing:

15 “PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY

16 “SEC. 1020. (a) ADMINISTRATIVE DISCIPLINE.—An  
17 officer or employee of the Executive Branch of the United  
18 States Government violating this part shall be subject to  
19 appropriate administrative discipline including, when cir-  
20 cumstances warrant, suspension from duty without pay or  
21 removal from office.

22 “(b) REPORTING VIOLATIONS.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event of a violation  
24 of section 1001, 1012, 1013, or 1018 of this part,  
25 or in the case that the Government Accountability  
26 Office issues a legal decision concluding that a de-

1       partment, agency, or office of the United States vio-  
2       lated this part, the President or the head of the rel-  
3       evant department or agency as the case may be,  
4       shall report immediately to Congress all relevant  
5       facts and a statement of actions taken. A copy of  
6       each report shall also be transmitted to the Comp-  
7       troller General and the relevant inspector general on  
8       the same date the report is transmitted to the Con-  
9       gress.

10       “(2) CONTENTS.—Any such report shall include  
11       a summary of the facts pertaining to the violation,  
12       the title and Treasury Appropriation Fund Symbol  
13       of the appropriation or fund account, the amount in-  
14       volved for each violation, the date on which the vio-  
15       lation occurred, the position of any individuals re-  
16       sponsible for the violation, a statement of the admin-  
17       istrative discipline imposed and any further action  
18       taken with respect to any officer or employee in-  
19       volved in the violation, and a statement of any addi-  
20       tional action taken to prevent recurrence of the same  
21       type of violation. In the case that the Government  
22       Accountability Office issues a legal decision con-  
23       cluding that a department, agency, or office of the  
24       United States violated this part and the relevant de-  
25       partment, agency, or office does not agree that a

1 violation has occurred, the report provided to Con-  
2 gress, the Comptroller General, and relevant inspec-  
3 tor general will explain its position.

4 “(3) OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND.—If the report  
5 identifies the position of any officer or employee as  
6 involved in the violation, such officer or employee  
7 shall be provided a reasonable opportunity to re-  
8 spond in writing, and any such response shall be ap-  
9 pended to the report.”.

10 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
11 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control  
12 Act of 1974 set forth in section 1(b) of such Act, as  
13 amended by section 502(b), is further amended by adding  
14 after the item relating to section 1019 the following:

“1020. Penalties for failure to comply.”.

15 **Subtitle B—Strengthening**  
16 **Transparency and Reporting**  
17 **PART 1—FUNDS MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING**  
18 **TO THE CONGRESS**  
19 **SEC. 511. EXPIRED BALANCE REPORTING IN THE PRESI-**  
20 **DENT’S BUDGET.**

21 Section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, is  
22 amended by adding at the end the following:

23 “(40) for the budgets for each of fiscal years  
24 2022 through 2026, a report on—

1           “(A) unobligated expired balances as of the  
2           beginning of the current fiscal year and the be-  
3           ginning of each of the preceding 2 fiscal years  
4           by agency and the applicable Treasury Appro-  
5           priation Fund Symbol or fund account; and

6           “(B) an explanation of expired balances in  
7           any Treasury Appropriation Fund Symbol or  
8           fund account that exceed the lesser of 5 percent  
9           of total appropriations made available for that  
10          account or \$100,000,000.”.

11 **SEC. 512. CANCELLED BALANCE REPORTING IN THE PRESI-**  
12 **DENT’S BUDGET.**

13          Section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, as  
14          amended by section 511, is further amended by adding  
15          at the end the following:

16               “(41) for the budgets for each of fiscal years  
17          2022 through 2026, a report on—

18               “(A) cancelled balances (pursuant to sec-  
19               tion 1552(a)) for the preceding 3 fiscal years by  
20               agency and Treasury Appropriation Fund Sym-  
21               bol or fund account;

22               “(B) an explanation of cancelled balances  
23               in any Treasury Appropriation Fund Symbol or  
24               fund account that exceed the lesser of 5 percent

1 of total appropriations made available for that  
2 account or \$100,000,000; and

3 “(C) a tabulation, by Treasury Appropria-  
4 tion Fund Symbol or fund account and appro-  
5 priation, of all balances of appropriations avail-  
6 able for an indefinite period in an appropriation  
7 account available for an indefinite period that  
8 do not meet the criteria for closure under sec-  
9 tion 1555, but for which either—

10 “(i) the head of the agency concerned  
11 or the President has determined that the  
12 purposes for which the appropriation was  
13 made have been carried out; or

14 “(ii) no disbursement has been made  
15 against the appropriation—

16 “(I) in the prior year and the  
17 preceding fiscal year; or

18 “(II) in the prior year and which  
19 the budget estimates zero disburse-  
20 ments in the current year.”.

21 **SEC. 513. LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS—REPORTING IN THE**  
22 **PRESIDENT’S BUDGET.**

23 Section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, as  
24 amended by section 512, is further amended by adding  
25 at the end the following:

1 “(42) a report on—

2 “(A) any obligation or expenditure made  
3 by a department or agency affected in whole or  
4 in part by any lapse in appropriations of 5 con-  
5 secutive days or more during the preceding fis-  
6 cal year; and

7 “(B)(i) with respect to any such obligation  
8 or expenditure, the amount so obligated or ex-  
9 pended, the account affected, and an expla-  
10 nation of which Antideficiency Act exceptions  
11 permitted the department or agency, as the  
12 case may be, to incur such obligation or expend-  
13 iture; and

14 “(ii) an explanation of any changes in the  
15 application of any Antideficiency Act exception  
16 for a program, project, or activity from any ex-  
17 planations previously reported on pursuant to  
18 this paragraph.”.

19 **SEC. 514. TRANSFER AND OTHER REPURPOSING AUTHOR-**  
20 **ITY REPORTING IN THE PRESIDENT’S BUDG-**  
21 **ET.**

22 Section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, as  
23 amended by section 513, is further amended by adding  
24 at the end the following:



1           “(43) for the budget for fiscal year 2022, a re-  
2       port on—

3           “(A) any transfer authority or other au-  
4       thority to repurpose appropriations provided in  
5       a law other than an appropriation act; and

6           “(B) with respect to any such authority,  
7       the citation to the statute, the list of depart-  
8       ments or agencies covered, an explanation of  
9       when such authority may be used, and an ex-  
10      planation on any use of such authority in the  
11      preceding 3 fiscal years.”.

12 **SEC. 515. AUTHORIZING CANCELLATIONS IN INDEFINITE**  
13 **ACCOUNTS BY APPROPRIATION.**

14       (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter IV of chapter 15 of  
15      title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after  
16      section 1555 the following:

17 **“SEC. 1555a. CANCELLATION OF APPROPRIATIONS AVAIL-**  
18 **ABLE FOR INDEFINITE PERIODS WITHIN AN**  
19 **ACCOUNT.**

20       “Any remaining balance (whether obligated or unobli-  
21      gated) from an appropriation available for an indefinite  
22      period in an appropriation account available for an indefi-  
23      nite period that does not meet the requirements for closure  
24      under section 1555 shall be canceled, and thereafter shall

1 not be available for obligation or expenditure for any pur-  
2 pose, if—

3 “(1) the head of the agency concerned or the  
4 President determines that the purposes for which  
5 the appropriation was made have been carried out;  
6 and

7 “(2) no disbursement has been made against  
8 the appropriation for two consecutive fiscal years.”.

9 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
10 for subchapter IV of chapter 15 of title 31, United States  
11 Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to  
12 section 1555 the following:

“1555a. Cancellation of appropriations available for indefinite periods within an  
account.”.

13 **PART 2—EMPOWERING CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW**  
14 **THROUGH NONPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL**  
15 **AGENCIES AND TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVES**  
16 **SEC. 521. REQUIREMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR**  
17 **INFORMATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT AC-**  
18 **COUNTABILITY OFFICE FOR BUDGET AND AP-**  
19 **PROPRIATIONS LAW DECISIONS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 7 of title  
21 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end  
22 the following:

1   **“SEC. 722. REQUIREMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR**  
2                   **INFORMATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT AC-**  
3                   **COUNTABILITY OFFICE FOR BUDGET AND AP-**  
4                   **PROPRIATIONS LAW DECISIONS.**

5           “(a) If an executive agency or the District of Colum-  
6   bia government receives a written request for information,  
7   documentation, or views from the Government Account-  
8   ability Office relating to a decision or opinion on budget  
9   or appropriations law, the executive agency or the District  
10   of Columbia government shall provide the requested infor-  
11   mation, documentation, or views not later than 20 days  
12   after receiving the written request, unless such written re-  
13   quest specifically provides otherwise.

14          “(b) If an executive agency or the District of Colum-  
15   bia government fails to respond to the request for informa-  
16   tion, documentation, or views within the time required by  
17   this section—

18               “(1) the Comptroller General shall notify, in  
19       writing, the Committee on Oversight and Reform of  
20       the House of Representatives, Committee on Home-  
21       land Security and Governmental Affairs of the Sen-  
22       ate, and any other appropriate congressional com-  
23       mittee of the House of Representatives and the Sen-  
24       ate of such failure; and

25               “(2) the Comptroller General is hereby ex-  
26       pressly empowered, through attorneys of their own

1 selection, to bring a civil action in the United States  
2 District Court for the District of Columbia to re-  
3 quire such information, documentation, or views to  
4 be produced, and such court is expressly empowered  
5 to enter in such civil action, against any department,  
6 agency, officer, or employee of the United States,  
7 any decree, judgment, or order which may be nec-  
8 essary or appropriate to require such production.

9 “(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed as af-  
10 fecting or otherwise limiting the authorities provided to  
11 the Comptroller General in section 716 of this title.”.

12 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
13 for subchapter II of chapter 7 of title 31, United States  
14 Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to  
15 section 721 the following:

“722. Requirement to respond to requests for information from the Government  
Accountability Office for budget and appropriations law deci-  
sions.”.

16 **SEC. 522. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR**  
17 **ANTIDEFICIENCY ACT VIOLATIONS.**

18 (a) VIOLATIONS OF SECTION 1341 OR 1342.—Sec-  
19 tion 1351 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

20 (1) by striking “If” and inserting “(a) If the  
21 Government Accountability Office, an executive  
22 agency, or the District of Columbia government de-  
23 termines that”; and

24 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1       “(b) Any such report shall include a summary of the  
2 facts pertaining to the violation, the title and Treasury  
3 Appropriation Fund Symbol of the appropriation or fund  
4 account, the amount involved for each violation, the date  
5 on which the violation occurred, the position of any officer  
6 or employee responsible for the violation, a statement of  
7 the administrative discipline imposed and any further ac-  
8 tion taken with respect to any officer or employee involved  
9 in the violation, a statement of any additional action taken  
10 to prevent recurrence of the same type of violation, a  
11 statement of any determination that the violation was not  
12 knowing and willful that has been made by the executive  
13 agency or District of Columbia government, and any writ-  
14 ten response by any officer or employee identified by posi-  
15 tion as involved in the violation. In the case that the Gov-  
16 ernment Accountability Office issues a legal decision con-  
17 cluding that section 1341(a) or 1342 was violated and the  
18 executive agency or District of Columbia government, as  
19 applicable, does not agree that a violation has occurred,  
20 the report provided to the President, the Congress, and  
21 the Comptroller General will explain its position.”.

22       (b) VIOLATIONS OF SECTION 1517.—Section 1517 of  
23 title 31, United States Code, is amended—

24               (1) in subsection (b), by striking “If” and in-  
25       serting “If the Government Accountability Office, an

1 executive agency, or the District of Columbia gov-  
2 ernment determines that”; and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(c) Any such report shall include a summary of the  
5 facts pertaining to the violation, the title and Treasury  
6 Appropriation Fund Symbol of the appropriation or fund  
7 account, the amount involved for each violation, the date  
8 on which the violation occurred, the position of any officer  
9 or employee responsible for the violation, a statement of  
10 the administrative discipline imposed and any further ac-  
11 tion taken with respect to any officer or employee involved  
12 in the violation, a statement of any additional action taken  
13 to prevent recurrence of the same type of violation, a  
14 statement of any determination that the violation was not  
15 knowing and willful that has been made by the executive  
16 agency or District of Columbia government, and any writ-  
17 ten response by any officer or employee identified by posi-  
18 tion as involved in the violation. In the case that the Gov-  
19 ernment Accountability Office issues a legal decision con-  
20 cluding that subsection (a) was violated and the executive  
21 agency or District of Columbia government, as applicable,  
22 does not agree that a violation has occurred, the report  
23 provided to the President, the Congress, and the Comp-  
24 troller General will explain its position.”.

1 **SEC. 523. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REPORTING TO CON-**  
2 **GRESS FOR ANTIDEFICIENCY ACT VIOLA-**  
3 **TIONS.**

4 (a) VIOLATIONS OF SECTIONS 1341 OR 1342.—Sec-  
5 tion 1350 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

6 (1) by striking “An officer” and inserting “(a)  
7 An officer”; and

8 (2) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(b)(1) If an executive agency or the District of Co-  
10 lumbia government reports, under section 1351, a viola-  
11 tion of section 1341(a) or 1342, the Attorney General  
12 shall promptly review such report and investigate to the  
13 extent necessary to determine whether there are reason-  
14 able grounds to believe that the responsible officer or em-  
15 ployee knowingly and willfully violated such section  
16 1341(a) or 1342, as applicable. If the Attorney General  
17 determines that there are such reasonable grounds, the  
18 Attorney General diligently shall investigate a criminal  
19 violation under this section.

20 “(2) The Attorney General shall submit to Congress  
21 and the Comptroller General on or before March 31 of  
22 each calendar year an annual report detailing separately  
23 for each executive agency and the District of Columbia  
24 government—

1           “(A) the number of reports under section 1351  
2           transmitted to the President during the preceding  
3           calendar year;

4           “(B) the number of reports reviewed in accord-  
5           ance with paragraph (1) during the preceding cal-  
6           endar year;

7           “(C) without identification of any individual of-  
8           ficer or employee of the United States Government  
9           or of the District of Columbia government, a de-  
10          scription of each investigation undertaken in accord-  
11          ance with paragraph (1) during the preceding cal-  
12          endar year and an explanation of the status of any  
13          such investigation; and

14          “(D) without identification of any individual of-  
15          ficer or employee of the United States Government  
16          or of the District of Columbia government, an expla-  
17          nation of any update to the status of any review or  
18          investigation previously reported pursuant to this  
19          subsection.”.

20          (b) VIOLATIONS OF SECTION 1517.—Section 1519 of  
21          title 31, United States Code, is amended—

22                  (1) by striking “An officer” and inserting “(a)  
23          An officer”; and

24                  (2) by adding at the end the following:



1       “(b)(1) If an executive agency or the District of Co-  
2       lumbia government reports, under section 1517(b), a vio-  
3       lation of section 1517(a), the Attorney General shall  
4       promptly review such report and investigate to the extent  
5       necessary to determine whether there are reasonable  
6       grounds to believe that the responsible officer or employee  
7       knowingly and willfully violated such section 1517(a). If  
8       the Attorney General determines that there are such rea-  
9       sonable grounds, the Attorney General diligently shall in-  
10      vestigate a criminal violation under this section.

11      “(2) The Attorney General shall submit to Congress  
12      and the Comptroller General on or before March 31 of  
13      each calendar year an annual report detailing separately  
14      for each executive agency and the District of Columbia  
15      government—

16           “(A) the number of reports under section  
17           1517(b) transmitted to the President during the pre-  
18           ceding calendar year;

19           “(B) the number of reports reviewed in accord-  
20           ance with paragraph (1) during the preceding cal-  
21           endar year;

22           “(C) without identification of any individual of-  
23           ficer or employee of the United States Government  
24           or of the District of Columbia government, a de-  
25           scription of each investigation undertaken in accord-

1       ance with paragraph (1) during the preceding cal-  
2       endar year and an explanation of the status of any  
3       such investigation; and

4               “(D) without identification of any individual of-  
5       ficer or employee of the United States Government  
6       or of the District of Columbia government, an expla-  
7       nation of any update to the status of any review or  
8       investigation previously reported pursuant to this  
9       subsection.”.

10 **SEC. 524. PUBLICATION OF BUDGET OR APPROPRIATIONS**

11                       **LAW OPINIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
12                       **OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL.**

13       (a) SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATION FOR FINAL OLC  
14 OPINIONS.—Each final opinion issued by the Office of  
15 Legal Counsel of the Department of Justice relating to  
16 section 1301(a), 1341, 1342, 1501, 1502, 1512, 1513,  
17 1515, 1517, or 3302(b) of title 31, United States Code,  
18 any provision of the Balanced Budget and Emergency  
19 Deficit Control Act of 1985, the Federal Credit Reform  
20 Act of 1990, the Impoundment Control Act of 1974, an  
21 appropriation Act, continuing resolution, or another provi-  
22 sion of law providing or governing appropriations or budg-  
23 et authority shall be made available on its public website  
24 in a manner that is searchable, sortable, and downloadable  
25 in its entirety as soon as is practicable, but—

1 (1) not later than 30 days after the opinion is  
2 issued or updated if such action takes place on or  
3 after the date of enactment of this Act;

4 (2) not later than 1 year after the date of en-  
5 actment of this Act for an opinion issued on or after  
6 January 20, 1993;

7 (3) not later than 2 years after the date of en-  
8 actment of this Act for an opinion issued on or after  
9 January 20, 1981, and before or on January 19,  
10 1993;

11 (4) not later than 3 years after the date of en-  
12 actment of this Act for an opinion issued on or after  
13 January 20, 1969, and before or on January 19,  
14 1981; and

15 (5) not later than 4 years after the date of en-  
16 actment of this Act for all other opinions.

17 (b) EXCEPTIONS AND LIMITATION ON PUBLIC  
18 AVAILABILITY OF FINAL OLC OPINIONS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—A final OLC opinion or part  
20 thereof may be withheld only to the extent—

21 (A) information contained in the opinion  
22 was—

23 (i) specifically authorized to be kept  
24 secret, under criteria established by an Ex-

1            executive order, in the interest of national  
2            defense or foreign policy;

3            (ii) properly classified, including all  
4            procedural and marking requirements, pur-  
5            suant to such Executive order;

6            (iii) the Attorney General determines  
7            that the national defense or foreign policy  
8            interests protected outweigh the public's  
9            interest in access to the information; and

10           (iv) put through declassification re-  
11           view within the past two years;

12           (B) information contained in the opinion  
13           relates to the appointment of a specific indi-  
14           vidual not confirmed to Federal office;

15           (C) information contained in the opinion is  
16           specifically exempted from disclosure by statute  
17           (other than sections 552 and 552b of title 5,  
18           United States Code), if such statute—

19           (i) requires that the material be with-  
20           held in such a manner as to leave no dis-  
21           cretion on the issue; or

22           (ii) establishes particular criteria for  
23           withholding or refers to particular types of  
24           material to be withheld;

1 (D) information in the opinion includes  
2 trade secrets and commercial or financial infor-  
3 mation obtained from a person and privileged  
4 or confidential whose disclosure would likely  
5 cause substantial harm to the competitive posi-  
6 tion of the person from whom the information  
7 was obtained;

8 (E) the President, in his or her sole and  
9 nondelegable determination, formally and per-  
10 sonally claims in writing that executive privilege  
11 prevents the release of the information and dis-  
12 closure would cause specific identifiable harm to  
13 an interest protected by an exception or the dis-  
14 closure is prohibited by law; or

15 (F) information in the opinion includes  
16 personnel and medical files and similar files the  
17 disclosure of which would constitute a clearly  
18 unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

19 (2) DETERMINATION TO WITHHOLD.—Any de-  
20 termination under this subsection to withhold infor-  
21 mation contained in a final OLC opinion shall be  
22 made by the Attorney General or a designee of the  
23 Attorney General. The determination shall be—

24 (A) in writing;

1 (B) made available to the public within the  
2 same timeframe as is required of a formal OLC  
3 opinion;

4 (C) sufficiently detailed as to inform the  
5 public of what kind of information is being  
6 withheld and the reason therefore; and

7 (D) effective only for a period of 3 years,  
8 subject to review and reissuance, with each  
9 reissuance made available to the public.

10 (3) FINAL OPINIONS.—For final OLC opinions  
11 for which the text is withheld in full or in substan-  
12 tial part, a detailed unclassified summary of the  
13 opinion shall be made available to the public, in the  
14 same timeframe as required of the final OLC opin-  
15 ion, that conveys the essence of the opinion, includ-  
16 ing any interpretations of a statute, the Constitu-  
17 tion, or other legal authority. A notation shall be in-  
18 cluded in any published list of OLC opinions regard-  
19 ing the extent of the withholdings.

20 (4) NO LIMITATION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMA-  
21 TION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed  
22 as limiting the availability of information under sec-  
23 tion 552 of title 5, United States Code or construed  
24 as an exemption under paragraph (3) of subsection  
25 (b) of such section.

1           (5) NO LIMITATION ON RELIEF.—A decision by  
2       the Attorney General to release or withhold informa-  
3       tion pursuant to this title shall not preclude any ac-  
4       tion or relief conferred by statutory or regulatory re-  
5       gime that empowers any person to request or de-  
6       mand the release of information.

7           (6) REASONABLY SEGREGABLE PORTIONS OF  
8       OPINIONS TO BE PUBLISHED.—Any reasonably seg-  
9       regable portion of an opinion shall be provided after  
10      withholding of the portions which are exempt under  
11      this section. The amount of information withheld,  
12      and the exemption under which the withholding is  
13      made, shall be indicated on the released portion of  
14      the opinion, unless including that indication would  
15      harm an interest protected by the exemption in this  
16      paragraph under which the withholding is made. If  
17      technically feasible, the amount of the information  
18      withheld, and the exemption under which the with-  
19      holding is made, shall be indicated at the place in  
20      the opinion where such withholding is made.

21      (c) METHOD OF PUBLICATION.—The Attorney Gen-  
22      eral shall publish each final OLC opinion to the extent  
23      the law permits, including by publishing the opinions on  
24      a publicly accessible website that—

25           (1) with respect to each opinion—

1 (A) contains an electronic copy of the opin-  
2 ion, including any transmittal letter associated  
3 with the opinion, in an open format that is plat-  
4 form independent and that is available to the  
5 public without restrictions;

6 (B) provides the public the ability to re-  
7 trieve an opinion, to the extent practicable,  
8 through searches based on—

9 (i) the title of the opinion;

10 (ii) the date of publication or revision;

11 or

12 (iii) the full text of the opinion;

13 (C) identifies the time and date when the  
14 opinion was required to be published, and when  
15 the opinion was transmitted for publication;  
16 and

17 (D) provides a permanent means of access-  
18 ing the opinion electronically;

19 (2) includes a means for bulk download of all  
20 OLC opinions or a selection of opinions retrieved  
21 using a text-based search;

22 (3) provides free access to the opinions, and  
23 does not charge a fee, require registration, or impose  
24 any other limitation in exchange for access to the  
25 website; and



1 (4) is capable of being upgraded as necessary to  
2 carry out the purposes of this section.

3 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) OLC OPINION.—The term “OLC opinion”  
5 means views on a matter of legal interpretation com-  
6 municated by the Office of Legal Counsel of the De-  
7 partment of Justice to any other office or agency, or  
8 person in an office or agency, in the Executive  
9 Branch, including any office in the Department of  
10 Justice, the White House, or the Executive Office of  
11 the President, and rendered in accordance with sec-  
12 tions 511–513 of title 28, United States Code.  
13 Where the communication of the legal interpretation  
14 takes place verbally, a memorialization of that com-  
15 munication qualifies as an “OLC opinion”.

16 (2) FINAL OLC OPINION.—The term “final  
17 OLC opinion” means an OLC opinion that—

18 (A) the Attorney General, Assistant Attor-  
19 ney General for the Office of Legal Counsel, or  
20 a Deputy Assistant General for the Office of  
21 Legal Counsel, has determined is final;

22 (B) government officials or government  
23 contractors are relying on or have relied on;

24 (C) is or has been relied upon to formulate  
25 legal guidance; or

1 (D) is cited in another Office of Legal  
2 Counsel opinion.

3 **Subtitle C—Strengthening Con-**  
4 **gressional Role in and Over-**  
5 **sight of Emergency Declarations**  
6 **and Designations**

7 **SEC. 531. IMPROVING CHECKS AND BALANCES ON THE USE**  
8 **OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCIES ACT.**

9 (a) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO DECLARATION  
10 AND RENEWAL OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.—Title II of  
11 the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.)  
12 is amended by striking sections 201 and 202 and inserting  
13 the following:

14 **“SEC. 201. DECLARATIONS OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.**

15 “(a) AUTHORITY TO DECLARE NATIONAL EMER-  
16 GENCIES.—With respect to Acts of Congress authorizing  
17 the exercise, during the period of a national emergency,  
18 of any special or extraordinary power, the President is au-  
19 thorized to declare such a national emergency by procla-  
20 mation. Such proclamation shall immediately be trans-  
21 mitted to Congress and published in the Federal Register.

22 “(b) SPECIFICATION OF PROVISIONS OF LAW TO BE  
23 EXERCISED AND REPORTING.—No powers or authorities  
24 made available by statute for use during the period of a  
25 national emergency shall be exercised unless and until the

1 President specifies the provisions of law under which the  
2 President proposes that the President or other officers will  
3 act in—

4 “(1) a proclamation declaring a national emer-  
5 gency under subsection (a); or

6 “(2) one or more Executive orders relating to  
7 the emergency published in the Federal Register and  
8 transmitted to Congress.

9 “(c) PROHIBITION ON SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS IF  
10 EMERGENCIES NOT APPROVED.—

11 “(1) SUBSEQUENT DECLARATIONS.—If a joint  
12 resolution of approval is not enacted under section  
13 203 with respect to a national emergency before the  
14 expiration of the period described in section 202(a),  
15 or with respect to a national emergency proposed to  
16 be renewed under section 202(b), the President may  
17 not, during the remainder of the term of office of  
18 that President, declare a subsequent national emer-  
19 gency under subsection (a) with respect to the same  
20 circumstances.

21 “(2) EXERCISE OF AUTHORITIES.—If a joint  
22 resolution of approval is not enacted under section  
23 203 with respect to a power or authority specified by  
24 the President under subsection (b) with respect to a  
25 national emergency, the President may not, during

1 the remainder of the term of office of that Presi-  
2 dent, exercise that power or authority with respect  
3 to that emergency.

4 “(d) EFFECT OF FUTURE LAWS.—No law enacted  
5 after the date of the enactment of the Congressional  
6 Power of the Purse Act shall supersede this title unless  
7 it does so in specific terms, referring to this title, and de-  
8 claring that the new law supersedes the provisions of this  
9 title.

10 **“SEC. 202. EFFECTIVE PERIODS OF NATIONAL EMER-**  
11 **GENCIES.**

12 “(a) TEMPORARY EFFECTIVE PERIODS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Unless previously termi-  
14 nated pursuant to Presidential order or Act of Con-  
15 gress, a declaration of a national emergency shall re-  
16 main in effect for 20 session days, in the case of the  
17 Senate, and 20 legislative days, in the case of the  
18 House, from the issuance of the proclamation under  
19 section 201(a) (not counting the day on which the  
20 proclamation was issued) and shall terminate when  
21 that period expires unless there is enacted into law  
22 a joint resolution of approval under section 203 with  
23 respect to the proclamation.

24 “(2) EXERCISE OF POWERS AND AUTHORI-  
25 TIES.—Unless the declaration of national emergency

1       has been terminated pursuant to Presidential order  
2       or Act of Congress, any emergency power or author-  
3       ity made available under a provision of law specified  
4       pursuant to section 201(b) may be exercised pursu-  
5       ant to a declaration of a national emergency for 20  
6       session days, in the case of the Senate, and 20 legis-  
7       lative days, in the case of the House, from the  
8       issuance of the proclamation or Executive order (not  
9       counting the day on which such proclamation or Ex-  
10      ecutive order was issued). That power or authority  
11      may not be exercised after that period expires unless  
12      there is enacted into law a joint resolution of ap-  
13      proval under section 203 approving—

14               “(A) the proclamation of the national  
15               emergency or the Executive order; and

16               “(B) the exercise of the power or authority  
17               specified by the President in such proclamation  
18               or Executive order.

19       “(b) RENEWAL OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.—A na-  
20      tional emergency declared by the President under section  
21      201(a) or previously renewed under this subsection, and  
22      not already terminated pursuant to subsection (a) or (c),  
23      shall terminate on the date that is one year after the  
24      President transmitted to Congress the proclamation de-

1 claring the emergency or the enactment of a previous re-  
2 newal pursuant to this subsection, unless—

3 “(1) the President publishes in the Federal  
4 Register and transmits to Congress an Executive  
5 order renewing the emergency; and

6 “(2) there is enacted into law a joint resolution  
7 of approval renewing the emergency pursuant to sec-  
8 tion 203 before the termination of the emergency or  
9 previous renewal of the emergency.

10 “(c) TERMINATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any national emergency  
12 declared by the President under section 201(a) shall  
13 terminate on the earliest of—

14 “(A) the date provided for in subsection  
15 (a);

16 “(B) the date provided for in subsection  
17 (b);

18 “(C) the date specified in an Act of Con-  
19 gress terminating the emergency; or

20 “(D) the date specified in a proclamation  
21 of the President terminating the emergency.

22 “(2) EFFECT OF TERMINATION.—Effective on  
23 the date of the termination of a national emergency  
24 under paragraph (1)—

1           “(A) any powers or authorities exercised  
2           by reason of the emergency shall cease to be ex-  
3           ercised;

4           “(B) any amounts reprogrammed,  
5           repurposed, or transferred under any provision  
6           of law with respect to the emergency that re-  
7           main unobligated on that date shall be returned  
8           and made available for the purpose for which  
9           such amounts were appropriated; and

10          “(C) any contracts entered into under any  
11          provision of law relating to the emergency shall  
12          be terminated.

13   **“SEC. 203. REVIEW BY CONGRESS OF NATIONAL EMER-**  
14           **GENCIES.**

15          “(a) JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL DEFINED.—  
16   In this section, the term ‘joint resolution of approval’  
17   means a joint resolution that does not have a preamble  
18   and that contains only the following provisions after its  
19   resolving clause:

20          “(1) A provision approving one or more—

21                  “(A) proclamations of national emergency  
22                  made under section 201(a);

23                  “(B) Executive orders issued under section  
24                  201(b)(2); or

1                   “(C) Executive orders issued under section  
2                   202(b); or

3                   “(2) A provision approving a list of all or a por-  
4                   tion of the provisions of law specified by the Presi-  
5                   dent under section 201(b) in the proclamations or  
6                   Executive orders that are the subject of the joint  
7                   resolution.

8                   “(b) PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION OF JOINT  
9                   RESOLUTIONS OF APPROVAL.—

10                  “(1) INTRODUCTION.—After the President  
11                  transmits to Congress a proclamation declaring a  
12                  national emergency under section 201(a), or an Ex-  
13                  ecutive order specifying emergency powers or au-  
14                  thorities under section 201(b)(2) or renewing a na-  
15                  tional emergency under section 202(b), a joint reso-  
16                  lution of approval may be introduced in either House  
17                  of Congress by any member of that House.

18                  “(2) COMMITTEE REFERRAL IN THE SENATE.—  
19                  In the Senate, a joint resolution of approval shall be  
20                  referred to the appropriate committee.

21                  “(3) CONSIDERATION IN SENATE.—In the Sen-  
22                  ate, the following shall apply:

23                         “(A) COMMITTEE REFERRAL.—A joint res-  
24                         olution of approval shall be referred to the ap-  
25                         propriate committee or committees.



1           “(B) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If the  
2           committee to which a joint resolution of ap-  
3           proval has been referred has not reported it at  
4           the end of 10 calendar days after its introduc-  
5           tion, that committee shall be discharged from  
6           further consideration of the resolution and it  
7           shall be placed on the calendar.

8           “(C) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—  
9           Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing  
10          Rules of the Senate, when a committee to which  
11          a joint resolution of approval is referred has re-  
12          ported the resolution, or when that committee is  
13          discharged under subparagraph (B) from fur-  
14          ther consideration of the resolution, it is at any  
15          time thereafter in order to move to proceed to  
16          the consideration of the joint resolution, and all  
17          points of order against the joint resolution (and  
18          against the motion to proceed to the consider-  
19          ation of the joint resolution) are waived. The  
20          motion to proceed shall be debatable for 4  
21          hours evenly divided between proponents and  
22          opponents of the joint resolution of approval.  
23          The motion is not subject to amendment, or to  
24          a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed  
25          to the consideration of other business. A motion

1 to reconsider the vote by which the motion is  
2 agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order.  
3 If a motion to proceed to the consideration of  
4 a joint resolution of approval is agreed to, the  
5 joint resolution shall remain the unfinished  
6 business of the Senate until disposed of.

7 “(D) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—There  
8 shall be 10 hours of consideration on a joint  
9 resolution of approval, to be divided evenly be-  
10 tween the proponents and opponents of the  
11 joint resolution. Of that 10 hours, there shall be  
12 a total of 2 hours of debate on any debatable  
13 motions in connection with the joint resolution,  
14 to be divided evenly between the proponents  
15 and opponents of the joint resolution.

16 “(E) AMENDMENTS.—No amendments  
17 shall be in order with respect to a joint resolu-  
18 tion of approval in the Senate.

19 “(F) MOTION TO RECONSIDER VOTE ON  
20 PASSAGE.—A motion to reconsider a vote on  
21 passage of a joint resolution of approval shall  
22 not be in order.

23 “(G) APPEALS.—Points of order and ap-  
24 peals from the decision of the Presiding Officer  
25 shall be decided without debate.

1           “(4) CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REP-  
2       REPRESENTATIVES.—In the House of Representatives,  
3       the following shall apply:

4           “(A) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If any  
5       committee to which a joint resolution of ap-  
6       proval has been referred has not reported it to  
7       the House within seven legislative days after  
8       the date of referral such committee shall be dis-  
9       charged from further consideration of the joint  
10      resolution.

11          “(B)(i) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDER-  
12      ATION.—Beginning on the third legislative day  
13      after each committee to which a joint resolution  
14      of approval has been referred reports it to the  
15      House or has been discharged from further con-  
16      sideration thereof, it shall be in order to move  
17      to proceed to consider the joint resolution of ap-  
18      proval in the House. All points of order against  
19      the motion are waived. Such a motion shall not  
20      be in order after the House has disposed of a  
21      motion to proceed on the joint resolution of ap-  
22      proval. The previous question shall be consid-  
23      ered as ordered on the motion to its adoption  
24      without intervening motion. The motion shall  
25      not be debatable. A motion to reconsider the

1 vote by which the motion is disposed of shall  
2 not be in order.

3 “(ii) MOTION.—A motion to proceed to the  
4 consideration of a joint resolution of approval of  
5 an Executive order described in subsection  
6 (a)(1) or a list described in subsection (a)(2)  
7 shall not be in order prior to the enactment of  
8 a joint resolution of approval of the proclama-  
9 tion described in subsection (a)(1) that is the  
10 subject of such Executive order or list.

11 “(C) CONSIDERATION.—The joint resolu-  
12 tion of approval shall be considered as read. All  
13 points of order against the joint resolution of  
14 approval and against its consideration are  
15 waived. The previous question shall be consid-  
16 ered as ordered on the joint resolution of ap-  
17 proval to final passage without intervening mo-  
18 tion except two hours of debate equally divided  
19 and controlled by the sponsor of the joint reso-  
20 lution of approval (or a designee) and an oppo-  
21 nent. A motion to reconsider the vote on pas-  
22 sage of the joint resolution of approval shall not  
23 be in order.

24 “(5) COORDINATION WITH ACTION BY OTHER  
25 HOUSE.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—If, before the passage  
2           by one House of a joint resolution of approval  
3           of that House, that House receives from the  
4           other House a joint resolution of approval with  
5           regard to the same proclamation or Executive  
6           order, then the following procedures shall apply:

7                   “(i) The joint resolution of approval  
8                   of the other House shall not be referred to  
9                   a committee.

10                  “(ii) With respect to a joint resolution  
11                  of approval of the House receiving the  
12                  joint resolution—

13                          “(I) the procedure in that House  
14                          shall be the same as if no joint resolu-  
15                          tion of approval had been received  
16                          from the other House; but

17                          “(II) the vote on passage shall be  
18                          on the joint resolution of approval of  
19                          the other House.

20                          “(iii) Upon the failure of passage of  
21                          the joint resolution of approval of the other  
22                          House, the question shall immediately  
23                          occur on passage of the joint resolution of  
24                          approval of the receiving House.

1                   “(B) TREATMENT OF LEGISLATION OF  
2                   OTHER HOUSE.—If one House fails to introduce  
3                   a joint resolution of approval under this section,  
4                   the joint resolution of approval of the other  
5                   House shall be entitled to expedited floor proce-  
6                   dures under this section.

7                   “(C) APPLICATION TO REVENUE MEAS-  
8                   URES.—The provisions of this paragraph shall  
9                   not apply in the House of Representatives to a  
10                  joint resolution of approval which is a revenue  
11                  measure.

12               “(6) TREATMENT OF VETO MESSAGE.—Debate  
13               on a veto message in the Senate under this section  
14               shall be 1 hour evenly divided between the majority  
15               and minority leaders or their designees.

16               “(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The enactment of a  
17               joint resolution of approval under this section shall not  
18               be interpreted to serve as a grant or modification by Con-  
19               gress of statutory authority for the emergency powers of  
20               the President.

21               “(d) RULES OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE.—This sec-  
22               tion is enacted by Congress—

23                   “(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of  
24                   the Senate and the House of Representatives, re-  
25                   spectively, and as such is deemed a part of the rules

1 of each House, respectively, but applicable only with  
2 respect to the procedure to be followed in the House  
3 in the case of joint resolutions described in this sec-  
4 tion, and supersedes other rules only to the extent  
5 that it is inconsistent with such other rules; and

6 “(2) with full recognition of the constitutional  
7 right of either House to change the rules (so far as  
8 relating to the procedure of that House) at any time,  
9 in the same manner, and to the same extent as in  
10 the case of any other rule of that House.

11 **“SEC. 204. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN NATIONAL EMER-**  
12 **GENCIES INVOKING INTERNATIONAL EMER-**  
13 **GENCY ECONOMIC POWERS ACT.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a national emer-  
15 gency described in subsection (b), the provisions of the  
16 National Emergencies Act, as in effect on the day before  
17 the date of the enactment of the Congressional Power of  
18 the Purse Act, shall continue to apply on and after such  
19 date of enactment.

20 “(b) NATIONAL EMERGENCY DESCRIBED.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A national emergency de-  
22 scribed in this subsection is a national emergency  
23 pursuant to which the President proposes to exercise  
24 emergency powers or authorities made available  
25 under the International Emergency Economic Pow-

1       ers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), supplemented as  
2       necessary by a provision of law specified in para-  
3       graph (2).

4           “(2) PROVISIONS OF LAW SPECIFIED.—The  
5       provisions of law specified in this paragraph are—

6           “(A) the United Nations Participation Act  
7       of 1945 (22 U.S.C. 287 et seq.);

8           “(B) section 212(f) of the Immigration  
9       and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(f)); or

10          “(C) any provision of law that authorizes  
11       the implementation, imposition, or enforcement  
12       of economic sanctions with respect to a foreign  
13       country.

14          “(c) EFFECT OF ADDITIONAL POWERS AND AU-  
15       THORITIES.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to a national  
16       emergency or the exercise of emergency powers and au-  
17       thorities pursuant to the national emergency if, in addition  
18       to the exercise of emergency powers and authorities de-  
19       scribed in subsection (b), the President proposes to exer-  
20       cise, pursuant to the national emergency, any emergency  
21       powers and authorities under any other provision of law.”.

22          (b) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 401 of the  
23       National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1641) is amended  
24       by adding at the end the following:



1       “(d) REPORT ON EMERGENCIES.—The President  
2 shall transmit to Congress, with any proclamation declar-  
3 ing a national emergency under section 201(a) or any Ex-  
4 ecutive order specifying emergency powers or authorities  
5 under section 201(b)(2) or renewing a national emergency  
6 under section 202(b), a report, in writing, that includes  
7 the following:

8               “(1) A description of the circumstances necessi-  
9 tating the declaration of a national emergency, the  
10 renewal of such an emergency, or the use of a new  
11 emergency authority specified in the Executive  
12 order, as the case may be.

13               “(2) The estimated duration of the national  
14 emergency, or a statement that the duration of the  
15 national emergency cannot reasonably be estimated  
16 at the time of transmission of the report.

17               “(3) A summary of the actions the President or  
18 other officers intend to take, including any re-  
19 programming or transfer of funds and any contracts  
20 anticipated to be entered into, and the statutory au-  
21 thorities the President and such officers expect to  
22 rely on in addressing the national emergency.

23               “(4) In the case of a renewal of a national  
24 emergency, a summary of the actions the President  
25 or other officers have taken in the preceding one-

1       year period, including any reprogramming or trans-  
2       fer of funds, to address the emergency.

3       “(e) PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO CONGRESS.—  
4       The President shall provide to Congress such other infor-  
5       mation as Congress may request in connection with any  
6       national emergency in effect under title II.

7       “(f) PERIODIC REPORTS ON STATUS OF EMER-  
8       GENCIES.—If the President declares a national emergency  
9       under section 201(a), the President shall, not less fre-  
10      quently than every 3 months for the duration of the emer-  
11      gency, report to Congress on the status of the emergency  
12      and the actions the President or other officers have taken  
13      and authorities the President and such officers have relied  
14      on in addressing the emergency.”.

15      (c) EXCLUSION OF IMPOSITION OF DUTIES AND IM-  
16      PORT QUOTAS FROM PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITIES  
17      UNDER INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC POW-  
18      ERS ACT.—Section 203 of the International Emergency  
19      Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702) is amended—

20           (1) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-  
21      section (d); and

22           (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-  
23      lowing:

24      “(c)(1) The authority granted to the President by  
25      this section does not include the authority to impose duties

1 or tariff-rate quotas or (subject to paragraph (2)) other  
2 quotas on articles entering the United States.

3 “(2) The limitation under paragraph (1) does not  
4 prohibit the President from excluding all articles imported  
5 from a country from entering the United States.”.

6 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

7 (1) NATIONAL EMERGENCIES ACT.—Title III of  
8 the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1631) is  
9 repealed.

10 (2) INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC  
11 POWERS ACT.—Section 207 of the International  
12 Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1706)  
13 is amended—

14 (A) in subsection (b), by striking “concur-  
15 rent resolution” and inserting “joint resolution”  
16 each place it appears; and

17 (B) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(e) In this section, the term ‘National Emergencies  
19 Act’ means the National Emergencies Act, as in effect on  
20 the day before the date of the enactment of the Congres-  
21 sional Power of the Purse Act.”.

22 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
24 graph (2), this section and the amendments made by  
25 this section shall take effect upon enactment and

1       apply with respect to national emergencies declared  
2       under section 201 of the National Emergencies Act  
3       on or after that date.

4               (2) APPLICABILITY TO RENEWALS OF EXISTING  
5       EMERGENCIES.—When a national emergency de-  
6       clared under section 201 of the National Emer-  
7       gencies Act before the date of the enactment of the  
8       Congressional Power of the Purse Act would expire  
9       or be renewed under section 202(d) of that Act (as  
10      in effect on the day before such date of enactment),  
11      that national emergency shall be subject to the re-  
12      quirements for renewal under section 202(b) of that  
13      Act, as amended by subsection (a).

14   **SEC. 532. NATIONAL EMERGENCIES ACT DECLARATION**  
15                   **SPENDING REPORTING IN THE PRESIDENT’S**  
16                   **BUDGET.**

17      Section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, as  
18      amended by section 514, is further amended by adding  
19      at the end the following:

20               “(44)(A) a report on the proposed, planned,  
21      and actual obligations and expenditures of funds (for  
22      the prior fiscal year, the current fiscal year, and the  
23      fiscal years for which the budget is submitted) at-  
24      tributable to the exercise of powers and authorities  
25      made available by statute for each national emer-

1       agency declared by the President, currently active or  
2       in effect during the applicable fiscal years.

3           “(B) Obligations and expenditures contained in  
4       the report under subparagraph (A) shall be orga-  
5       nized by Treasury Appropriation Fund Symbol or  
6       fund account and by program, project, and activity,  
7       and include—

8           “(i) a description of each such program,  
9       project, and activity;

10          “(ii) the authorities under which such  
11       funding actions are taken; and

12          “(iii) the purpose and progress of such ob-  
13       ligations and expenditures toward addressing  
14       the applicable national emergency.

15          “(C) Such report shall include, with respect to  
16       any transfer, reprogramming, or repurposing of  
17       funds to address the applicable national emer-  
18       gency—

19          “(i) the amount of such transfer, re-  
20       programming, or repurposing;

21          “(ii) the authority authorizing each such  
22       transfer, reprogramming, or repurposing; and

23          “(iii) a description of programs, projects,  
24       and activities affected by such transfer, re-

1 programming, or repurposing, including by a  
2 reduction in funding.”.

3 **SEC. 533. DISCLOSURE TO CONGRESS OF PRESIDENTIAL**  
4 **EMERGENCY ACTION DOCUMENTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the  
6 conclusion of the process for approval, adoption, or revi-  
7 sion of any presidential emergency action document, the  
8 President shall submit that document to the appropriate  
9 congressional committees.

10 (b) DOCUMENTS IN EXISTENCE BEFORE DATE OF  
11 ENACTMENT.—Not later than 15 days after the date of  
12 the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to  
13 the appropriate congressional committees all presidential  
14 emergency action documents in existence before such date  
15 of enactment.

16 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
18 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
19 mittees”, with respect to a presidential emergency  
20 action document submitted under subsection (a) or  
21 (b), means—

22 (A) the Committee on Homeland Security  
23 and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on  
24 the Judiciary, and the Select Committee on In-  
25 telligence of the Senate;

1 (B) the Committee on Oversight and Re-  
2 form, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the  
3 Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of  
4 the House of Representatives; and

5 (C) any other committee of the Senate or  
6 the House of Representatives with jurisdiction  
7 over the subject matter addressed in the presi-  
8 dential emergency action document.

9 (2) PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY ACTION DOCU-  
10 MENT.—The term “presidential emergency action  
11 document” refers to—

12 (A) each of the approximately 56 docu-  
13 ments described as presidential emergency ac-  
14 tion documents in the budget justification mate-  
15 rials for the Office of Legal Counsel of the De-  
16 partment of Justice submitted to Congress in  
17 support of the budget of the President for fiscal  
18 year 2018; and

19 (B) any other pre-coordinated legal docu-  
20 ment in existence before, on, or after the date  
21 of the enactment of this Act, that—

22 (i) is designated as a presidential  
23 emergency action document; or

24 (ii) is designed to implement a presi-  
25 dential decision or transmit a presidential

1 request when an emergency disrupts nor-  
2 mal governmental or legislative processes.

3 **SEC. 534. EMERGENCY AND OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OP-**  
4 **ERATIONS DESIGNATIONS BY CONGRESS IN**  
5 **STATUTE.**

6 Section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and  
7 Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C.  
8 901(b)(2)(A)) is amended—

9 (1) in clause (i), by striking “and the President  
10 subsequently so designates”; and

11 (2) in clause (ii), by striking “and the President  
12 subsequently so designates”.

13 **TITLE VI—SECURITY FROM PO-**  
14 **LITICAL INTERFERENCE IN**  
15 **JUSTICE**

16 **SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.**

17 This title may be cited as the “Security from Political  
18 Interference in Justice Act of 2020”.

19 **SEC. 602. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this title:

21 (1) **COMMUNICATIONS LOG.**—The term “com-  
22 munications log” means the log required to be main-  
23 tained under section 603(a).

24 (2) **COVERED COMMUNICATION.**—



1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “covered  
2 communication” means any communication re-  
3 lating to any contemplated or ongoing investiga-  
4 tion or litigation conducted by the Department  
5 of Justice in any civil or criminal matter (re-  
6 gardless of whether a civil action or criminal in-  
7 dictment or information has been filed); and

8 (B) EXCEPTIONS.—The term does not in-  
9 clude a communication that is any of the fol-  
10 lowing:

11 (i) A communication that involves  
12 contact between the President, the Vice  
13 President, the Counsel to the President, or  
14 the Principal Deputy Counsel to the Presi-  
15 dent, and the Attorney General, the Dep-  
16 uty Attorney General, or the Associate At-  
17 torney General, except to the extent that  
18 the communication concerns a con-  
19 templated or ongoing investigation or liti-  
20 gation in which a target or subject is one  
21 of the following:

22 (I) The President, the Vice Presi-  
23 dent, or a member of the immediate  
24 family of the President or Vice Presi-  
25 dent.

1                   (II) Any individual working in  
2                   the Executive Office of the President  
3                   who is compensated at a rate of pay  
4                   at or above level II of the Executive  
5                   Schedule under section 5313 of title  
6                   5, United States Code.

7                   (III) The current or former chair  
8                   or treasurer of any national campaign  
9                   committee that sought the election or  
10                  seeks the reelection of the President,  
11                  or any officer of such a committee ex-  
12                  ercising authority at the national  
13                  level, during the tenure in office of the  
14                  President.

15                 (ii) A communication that involves  
16                 contact between an officer or employee of  
17                 the Department of Justice and an officer  
18                 or employee of the Executive Office of the  
19                 President on a particular matter, if any of  
20                 the President, the Vice President, the  
21                 Counsel to the President, or the Principal  
22                 Deputy Counsel to the President, and if  
23                 any of the Attorney General, the Deputy  
24                 Attorney General, or the Associate Attor-  
25                 ney General have designated a subordinate

1 to carry on such contact, and the person so  
2 designating monitors all subsequent com-  
3 munications and the person designated  
4 keeps the designating person informed of  
5 each such communication, except to the ex-  
6 tent that the communication concerns a  
7 contemplated or ongoing investigation or  
8 litigation in which a target or subject is  
9 one of the following:

10 (I) The President, the Vice Presi-  
11 dent, or a member of the immediate  
12 family of the President or Vice Presi-  
13 dent.

14 (II) Any individual working in  
15 the Executive Office of the President  
16 who is compensated at a rate of pay  
17 at or above level II of the Executive  
18 Schedule under section 5313 of title  
19 5, United States Code.

20 (III) The current or former chair  
21 or treasurer of any national campaign  
22 committee that sought the election or  
23 seeks the reelection of the President,  
24 or any officer of such a committee ex-  
25 ercising authority at the national

1 level, during the tenure in office of the  
2 President.

3 (iii) A communication that involves  
4 contact from or to the Deputy Counsel to  
5 the President for National Security Af-  
6 fairs, the staff of the National Security  
7 Council, and the staff of the Homeland Se-  
8 curity Council that relates to a national se-  
9 curity matter, except to the extent that the  
10 communication concerns a pending adver-  
11 sary case in litigation that may have na-  
12 tional security implications.

13 (iv) A communication that involves  
14 contact between the Office of the Pardon  
15 Attorney of the Department of Justice and  
16 the Counsel to the President or the Deputy  
17 Counsels to the President relating to par-  
18 don matters.

19 (v) A communication that relates sole-  
20 ly to policy, appointments, legislation, rule-  
21 making, budgets, public relations or af-  
22 fairs, programmatic matters, intergovern-  
23 mental relations, administrative or per-  
24 sonnel matters, appellate litigation, or re-  
25 quests for legal advice.

1           (3) IMMEDIATE FAMILY.—The term “immediate  
2       family of the President or Vice President” means  
3       those persons to whom the President or Vice Presi-  
4       dent—

5                   (A) is related by blood, marriage, or adop-  
6       tion; or

7                   (B) stands in loco parentis.

8   **SEC. 603. COMMUNICATIONS LOGS.**

9       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall main-  
10   tain a log of covered communications.

11      (b) CONTENTS.—A communications log shall include,  
12   with respect to a covered communication—

13           (1) the name and title of each officer or em-  
14   ployee of the Department of Justice or the Executive  
15   Office of the President who participated in the cov-  
16   ered communication;

17           (2) the topic of the covered communication; and

18           (3) a statement describing the purpose and ne-  
19   cessity of the covered communication.

20   (c) OVERSIGHT.—

21           (1) PERIODIC DISCLOSURE OF LOGS.—Not later  
22   than January 30 and July 30 of each year, the At-  
23   torney General shall submit to the Office of the In-  
24   specter General of the Department of Justice a re-

1 port containing the communications log for the 6-  
2 month period preceding that January or July.

3 (2) NOTICE OF INAPPROPRIATE OR IMPROPER  
4 COMMUNICATIONS.—The Office of the Inspector  
5 General of the Department of Justice shall—

6 (A) review each communications log re-  
7 ceived under paragraph (1)(A); and

8 (B) notify the Committee on the Judiciary  
9 of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
10 mittee on the Judiciary of the Senate if the In-  
11 spector General determines that a covered com-  
12 munication described in the communications  
13 log—

14 (i) is inappropriate from a law en-  
15 forcement perspective; or

16 (ii) raises concerns about improper  
17 political interference.

18 **SEC. 604. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

19 Nothing in this title may be construed to affect any  
20 requirement to report pursuant to title I of this Act, or  
21 the amendments made by that title.

1 **TITLE VII—PROTECTING IN-**  
2 **SPECTOR GENERAL INDE-**  
3 **PENDENCE**

4 **Subtitle A—Requiring Cause for**  
5 **Removal**

6 **SEC. 701. SHORT TITLE.**

7 This subtitle may be cited as the “Inspector General  
8 Independence Act”.

9 **SEC. 702. AMENDMENT.**

10 The Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.)  
11 is amended—

12 (1) in section 3(b)—

13 (A) by striking “An Inspector General”  
14 and inserting “(1) An Inspector General”;

15 (B) by inserting after “by the President”  
16 the following: “in accordance with paragraph  
17 (2)”; and

18 (C) by inserting at the end the following  
19 new paragraph:

20 “(2) The President may remove an Inspector General  
21 only for any of the following grounds (and the documenta-  
22 tion of any such ground shall be included in the commu-  
23 nication required pursuant to paragraph (1)):

24 “(A) Documented permanent incapacity.

25 “(B) Documented neglect of duty.

1 “(C) Documented malfeasance.

2 “(D) Documented conviction of a felony or con-  
3 duct involving moral turpitude.

4 “(E) Documented knowing violation of a law or  
5 regulation.

6 “(F) Documented gross mismanagement.

7 “(G) Documented gross waste of funds.

8 “(H) Documented abuse of authority.

9 “(I) Documented inefficiency.”; and

10 (2) in section 8G(e)(2), by adding at the end  
11 the following new sentence: “An Inspector General  
12 may be removed only for any of the following  
13 grounds (and the documentation of any such ground  
14 shall be included in the communication required pur-  
15 suant to this paragraph):

16 “(A) Documented permanent incapacity.

17 “(B) Documented neglect of duty.

18 “(C) Documented malfeasance.

19 “(D) Documented conviction of a felony or con-  
20 duct involving moral turpitude.

21 “(E) Documented knowing violation of a law or  
22 regulation.

23 “(F) Documented gross mismanagement.

24 “(G) Documented gross waste of funds.

25 “(H) Documented abuse of authority.



1 “(I) Documented inefficiency.”.

2 **Subtitle B—Inspectors General of**  
3 **Intelligence Community**

4 **SEC. 711. INDEPENDENCE OF INSPECTORS GENERAL OF**  
5 **THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The National Security Act of  
7 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended by adding at  
8 the end the following new title:

9 **“TITLE XII—MATTERS REGARD-**  
10 **ING INSPECTORS GENERAL**  
11 **OF ELEMENTS OF THE INTEL-**  
12 **LIGENCE COMMUNITY**

13 **“Subtitle A—Inspectors General**

14 **“SEC. 1201. INDEPENDENCE OF INSPECTORS GENERAL.**

15 “(a) REMOVAL.—A covered Inspector General may be  
16 removed from office only by the head official. The head  
17 official may remove a covered Inspector General only for  
18 any of the following grounds:

19 “(1) Documented permanent incapacity.

20 “(2) Documented neglect of duty.

21 “(3) Documented malfeasance.

22 “(4) Documented conviction of a felony or con-  
23 duct involving moral turpitude.

24 “(5) Documented knowing violation of a law or  
25 regulation.

1 “(6) Documented gross mismanagement.

2 “(7) Documented gross waste of funds.

3 “(8) Documented abuse of authority.

4 “(9) Documented Inefficiency.

5 “(b) ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE.—A covered Inspector  
6 General may be placed on administrative leave only by the  
7 head official. The head official may place a covered Inspec-  
8 tor General on administrative leave only for any of the  
9 grounds specified in subsection (a).

10 “(c) NOTIFICATION.—The head official may not re-  
11 move a covered Inspector General under subsection (a) or  
12 place a covered Inspector General on administrative leave  
13 under subsection (b) unless—

14 “(1) the head official transmits in writing to  
15 the appropriate congressional committees a notifica-  
16 tion of such removal or placement, including an ex-  
17 planation of the documented grounds specified in  
18 subsection (a) for such removal or placement; and

19 “(2) with respect to the removal of a covered  
20 Inspector General, a period of 30 days elapses fol-  
21 lowing the date of such transmittal.

22 “(d) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date  
23 on which the head official notifies a covered Inspector  
24 General of being removed under subsection (a) or placed  
25 on administrative leave under subsection (b), the office of

1 that Inspector General shall submit to the appropriate  
2 congressional committees a report containing—

3 “(1) a description of the facts and cir-  
4 cumstances of any pending complaint, investigation,  
5 inspection, audit, or other review or inquiry, includ-  
6 ing any information, allegation, or complaint re-  
7 ported to the Attorney General in accordance with  
8 section 535 of title 28, United States Code, that the  
9 Inspector General was working on as of the date of  
10 such removal or placement; and

11 “(2) any other significant matter that the office  
12 of the Inspector General determines appropriate.

13 “(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
14 tion shall be construed to prohibit a personnel action of  
15 a covered Inspector General otherwise authorized by law,  
16 other than transfer or removal.

17 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 “(1) ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE.—The term ‘ad-  
19 ministrative leave’ includes any other type of paid or  
20 unpaid non-duty status.

21 “(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
22 TEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional com-  
23 mittees’ means—

24 “(A) the congressional intelligence commit-  
25 tees; and

1           “(B) the Committee on Oversight and Re-  
2           form of the House of Representatives and the  
3           Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-  
4           mental Affairs of the Senate.

5           “(3) HEAD OFFICIAL.—The term ‘head official’  
6           means—

7           “(A) with respect to the position of a cov-  
8           ered Inspector General that requires appoint-  
9           ment by the President, by and with the advice  
10          and consent of the Senate, the President; and

11          “(B) with respect to the position of a cov-  
12          ered Inspector General that requires appoint-  
13          ment by a head of a department or agency of  
14          the Federal Government, the head of such de-  
15          partment or agency.”.

16          (b) DEFINITION.—Section 3 of such Act (50 U.S.C.  
17          3003) is amended by adding at the end the following new  
18          paragraph:

19                 “(8) The term ‘covered Inspector General’  
20                 means each of the following:

21                         “(A) The Inspector General of the Intel-  
22                         ligence Community.

23                         “(B) The Inspector General of the Central  
24                         Intelligence Agency.

1 “(C) The Inspector General of the Defense  
2 Intelligence Agency.

3 “(D) The Inspector General of the Na-  
4 tional Reconnaissance Office.

5 “(E) The Inspector General of the Na-  
6 tional Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

7 “(F) The Inspector General of the Na-  
8 tional Security Agency.”.

9 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections  
10 at the beginning of the National Security Act of 1947 is  
11 amended by adding after the items relating to title XI the  
12 end the following new items:

“TITLE XII—MATTERS REGARDING INSPECTORS GENERAL OF  
ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

“SUBTITLE A—INSPECTORS GENERAL

“Sec. 1201. Independence of Inspectors General.”.

13 **SEC. 712. AUTHORITY OF INSPECTORS GENERAL OF THE**  
14 **INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY TO DETERMINE**  
15 **MATTERS OF URGENT CONCERN.**

16 (a) DETERMINATION.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Title XII of the National Se-  
18 curity Act of 1947, as added by section 711, is  
19 amended by inserting after section 1201 the fol-  
20 lowing new section:

1   **“SEC. 1203. DETERMINATION OF MATTERS OF URGENT**  
2                   **CONCERN.**

3           “(a) DETERMINATION.—Each covered Inspector  
4 General shall have sole authority to determine whether any  
5 complaint or information reported to the Inspector Gen-  
6 eral is a matter of urgent concern. Such determination is  
7 final and conclusive.

8           “(b) FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN ELECTIONS.—In  
9 addition to any other matter which is considered an urgent  
10 concern pursuant to section 103H(k)(5)(G), section  
11 17(d)(5)(G) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of  
12 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3517(d)(5)(G)), or other applicable pro-  
13 vision of law, the term ‘urgent concern’ includes a serious  
14 or flagrant problem, abuse, violation of law or Executive  
15 order, or deficiency relating to foreign interference in elec-  
16 tions in the United States.”.

17           (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
18 tions at the beginning of the National Security Act  
19 of 1947 is amended by inserting after the item relat-  
20 ing to section 1201, as added by section 711, the  
21 following new item:

“Sec. 1203. Determination of matters of urgent concern.”.

22           (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

23           (1) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—Section  
24 103H(k)(5)(G) of the National Security Act of 1947  
25 (50 U.S.C. 3033(k)(5)(G)) is amended by striking

1 “In this paragraph” and inserting “In accordance  
2 with section 1203, in this paragraph”.

3 (2) CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.—Section  
4 17(d)(5)(G) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act  
5 of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3517(d)(5)(G)) is amended by  
6 striking “In this paragraph” and inserting “In ac-  
7 cordance with section 1203 of the National Security  
8 Act of 1947, in this paragraph”.

9 (c) REPORTS ON UNRESOLVED DIFFERENCES.—  
10 Paragraph (3) of section 103H(k) of the National Security  
11 Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3033(k)) is amended by adding  
12 at the end the following new subparagraph:

13 “(C) With respect to each report submitted pursuant  
14 to subparagraph (A)(i), the Inspector General shall in-  
15 clude in the report, at a minimum—

16 “(i) a general description of the unresolved dif-  
17 ferences, the particular duties or responsibilities of  
18 the Inspector General involved, and, if such dif-  
19 ferences relate to a complaint or information under  
20 paragraph (5), a description of the complaint or in-  
21 formation and the entities or individuals identified in  
22 the complaint or information; and

23 “(ii) to the extent such differences can be at-  
24 tributed not only to the Director but also to any  
25 other official, department, agency, or office within

1 the executive branch, or a component thereof, the ti-  
2 tles of such official, department, agency, or office.”.

3 (d) CLARIFICATION OF ROLE OF DIRECTOR OF NA-  
4 TIONAL INTELLIGENCE.—Section 102A(f)(1) of such Act  
5 (50 U.S.C. 3024(f)(1)) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as sub-  
7 paragraph (C); and

8 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-  
9 lowing new subparagraph:

10 “(B) The authority of the Director of National  
11 Intelligence under subparagraph (A) includes coordi-  
12 nating and supervising activities undertaken by ele-  
13 ments of the intelligence community for the purpose  
14 of protecting the United States from any foreign in-  
15 terference in elections in the United States.”.

16 **SEC. 713. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS AND COORDINATION**  
17 **WITH OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW.**

18 (a) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—Paragraph (4) of  
19 section 103H(c) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50  
20 U.S.C. 3033(c)) is amended to read as follows:

21 “(4) The provisions of title XII shall apply to the In-  
22 spector General with respect to the removal of the Inspec-  
23 tor General and any other matter relating to the Inspector  
24 General as specifically provided for in such title.”.



1 (b) CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.—Paragraph  
2 (6) of section 17(b) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act  
3 of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3517(b)) is amended to read as fol-  
4 lows:

5 “(6) The provisions of title XII of the National Secu-  
6 rity Act of 1947 shall apply to the Inspector General with  
7 respect to the removal of the Inspector General and any  
8 other matter relating to the Inspector General as specifi-  
9 cally provided for in such title.”.

10 (c) OTHER ELEMENTS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Title XII of the National Se-  
12 curity Act of 1947, as added by section 711, is fur-  
13 ther amended by inserting after section 1203, as  
14 added by section 712(a), the following new section:

15 **“SEC. 1205. COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROVISIONS OF**  
16 **LAW.**

17 “No provision of law that is inconsistent with any  
18 provision of this title shall be considered to supersede, re-  
19 peal, or otherwise modify a provision of this title unless  
20 such other provision of law specifically cites a provision  
21 of this title in order to supersede, repeal, or otherwise  
22 modify that provision of this title.”.

23 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
24 tions at the beginning of the National Security Act  
25 of 1947 is amended by inserting after the item relat-

1 ing to section 1203, as added by section 713, the  
2 following new item:

“Sec. 1205. Coordination with other provisions of law.”.

3 **Subtitle C—Congressional**  
4 **Notification**

5 **SEC. 721. SHORT TITLE.**

6 This subtitle may be cited as the “Inspector General  
7 Protection Act”.

8 **SEC. 722. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE IN**  
9 **STATUS OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.**

10 (a) CHANGE IN STATUS OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF  
11 OFFICES.—Section 3(b) of the Inspector General Act of  
12 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

13 (1) by inserting “, is placed on paid or unpaid  
14 non-duty status,” after “is removed from office”;

15 (2) by inserting “, change in status,” after  
16 “any such removal”; and

17 (3) by inserting “, change in status,” after “be-  
18 fore the removal”.

19 (b) CHANGE IN STATUS OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF  
20 DESIGNATED FEDERAL ENTITIES.—Section 8G(e)(2) of  
21 the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is  
22 amended—

23 (1) by inserting “, is placed on paid or unpaid  
24 non-duty status,” after “office”;

1           (2) by inserting “, change in status,” after  
2           “any such removal”; and

3           (3) by inserting “, change in status,” after “be-  
4           fore the removal”.

5           (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
6           this section shall take effect 30 days after the date of the  
7           enactment of this Act.

8           **SEC. 723. PRESIDENTIAL EXPLANATION OF FAILURE TO**  
9                                   **NOMINATE AN INSPECTOR GENERAL.**

10          (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 33 of  
11          title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after  
12          section 3349d the following new section:

13          **“§ 3349e. Presidential explanation of failure to nomi-**  
14                                   **nate an Inspector General**

15          “If the President fails to make a formal nomination  
16          for a vacant Inspector General position that requires a for-  
17          mal nomination by the President to be filled within the  
18          period beginning on the date on which the vacancy oc-  
19          curred and ending on the day that is 210 days after that  
20          date, the President shall communicate, within 30 days  
21          after the end of such period, to Congress in writing—

22                 “(1) the reasons why the President has not yet  
23                 made a formal nomination; and

24                 “(2) a target date for making a formal nomina-  
25                 tion.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
2 for chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, is amended  
3 by inserting after the item relating to 3349d the following  
4 new item:

“3349e. Presidential explanation of failure to nominate an Inspector General.”.

5 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
6 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enact-  
7 ment of this Act and shall apply to any vacancy first oc-  
8 ccurring on or after that date.

9 **TITLE VIII—PROTECTING**  
10 **WHISTLEBLOWERS**  
11 **Subtitle A—Whistleblower**  
12 **Protection Improvement**

13 **SEC. 801. SHORT TITLE.**

14 This subtitle may be cited as the “Whistleblower Pro-  
15 tection Improvement Act of 2020”.

16 **SEC. 802. ADDITIONAL WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS.**

17 (a) INVESTIGATIONS AS PERSONNEL ACTIONS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2302(a)(2)(A) of  
19 title 5, United States Code, is amended—

20 (A) in clause (xi), by striking “and” at the  
21 end;

22 (B) by redesignating clause (xii) as clause  
23 (xiii); and

24 (C) by adding after the clause (xi) the fol-  
25 lowing:

1                   “(xii) the opening of any investigation  
2                   as a result of a disclosure protected by  
3                   subsection (b)(8) (but not including any  
4                   investigation that is ministerial or nondis-  
5                   cretionary or that is conducted by an In-  
6                   spector General or Special Inspector Gen-  
7                   eral under the authority of the Inspector  
8                   General Act of 1978 or any other law  
9                   granting authority to an Inspector General  
10                  or Special Inspector General); and”.

11               (2) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by  
12               paragraph (1) shall apply to any investigation  
13               opened (as described under section  
14               2302(a)(2)(A)(xii) of title 5, United States Code, as  
15               added by such paragraph) on or after the date of en-  
16               actment of this Act.

17               (b) RIGHT TO PETITION CONGRESS.—

18               (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2302(b)(9) of title  
19               5, United States Code, is amended—

20                   (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “or”  
21                   at the end;

22                   (B) in subparagraph (D), by adding “or”  
23                   at the end after the semicolon; and

24                   (C) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(E) the exercise of any right protected  
2           under section 7211;”.

3           (2) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by  
4           paragraph (1) shall apply to the exercise of any  
5           right described in section 2302(b)(9)(E) of title 5,  
6           United States Code, as added by paragraph (1), oc-  
7           curring on or after the date of enactment of this  
8           Act.

9           (c) PROHIBITION ON DISCLOSURE OF WHISTLE-  
10          BLOWER IDENTITY.—

11           (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2302 of title 5,  
12          United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
13          end the following:

14          “(g)(1) No employee of an agency may willfully com-  
15          municate or transmit to any individual who is not an offi-  
16          cer or employee of the Government the identity of, or per-  
17          sonally identifiable information about, any other employee  
18          who has made, or is suspected to have made, a disclosure  
19          protected by subsection (b)(8), unless—

20                 “(A) the other employee provides express  
21                 written consent prior to the communication or  
22                 transmission;

23                 “(B) the communication or transmission is  
24                 made in accordance with the provisions of sec-  
25                 tion 552a;

1           “(C) the communication or transmission is  
2           made to a lawyer for the sole purpose of pro-  
3           viding legal advice to an employee accused of  
4           whistleblower retaliation; or

5           “(D) the communication or transmission is  
6           required or permitted by any other provision of  
7           law.

8           “(2) In this subsection, the term ‘officer or employee  
9 of the Government’ means—

10           “(A) the President;

11           “(B) a Member of Congress;

12           “(C) a member of the uniformed services;

13           “(D) an employee as that term is defined in  
14           section 2105, including an employee of the United  
15           States Postal Service, the Postal Regulatory Com-  
16           mission, or the Department of Veterans Affairs (in-  
17           cluding any employee appointed pursuant to chapter  
18           73 or 74 of title 38); and

19           “(E) any other officer or employee in any  
20           branch of the Government of the United States.”.

21           (2) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by  
22           paragraph (1) shall apply to any transmission or  
23           communication described in subsection (g) of section  
24           2302 of title 5, United States Code, as added by

1 paragraph (1), made on or after the date of enact-  
2 ment of this Act.

3 (d) RIGHT TO PETITION CONGRESS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7211 of title 5,  
5 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

6 **“§ 7211. Employees’ right to petition or furnish infor-**  
7 **mation or respond to Congress**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Each officer or employee of the  
9 Federal Government, individually or collectively, has a  
10 right to—

11 “(1) petition Congress or a Member of Con-  
12 gress;

13 “(2) furnish information, documents, or testi-  
14 mony to either House of Congress, any Member of  
15 Congress, or any committee or subcommittee of the  
16 Congress; or

17 “(3) respond to any request for information,  
18 documents, or testimony from either House of Con-  
19 gress or any Committee or subcommittee of Con-  
20 gress.

21 “(b) PROHIBITED ACTIONS.—No officer or employee  
22 of the Federal Government may interfere with or deny the  
23 right set forth in subsection (a), including by—

24 “(1) prohibiting or preventing, or attempting or  
25 threatening to prohibit or prevent, any other officer



1 or employee of the Federal Government from engag-  
2 ing in activity protected in subsection (a); or

3 “(2) removing, suspending from duty without  
4 pay, demoting, reducing in rank, seniority, status,  
5 pay, or performance or efficiency rating, denying  
6 promotion to, relocating, reassigning, transferring,  
7 disciplining, or discriminating in regard to any em-  
8 ployment right, entitlement, or benefit, or any term  
9 or condition of employment of, any other officer or  
10 employee of the Federal Government or attempting  
11 or threatening to commit any of the foregoing ac-  
12 tions protected in subsection (a).

13 “(c) APPLICATION.—This section shall not be con-  
14 strued to authorize disclosure of any information that is—

15 “(1) specifically prohibited from disclosure by  
16 any other provision of Federal law; or

17 “(2) specifically required by Executive order to  
18 be kept secret in the interest of national defense or  
19 the conduct of foreign affairs, unless disclosure is  
20 otherwise authorized by law.

21 “(d) DEFINITION OF OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE OF  
22 THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—For purposes of this sec-  
23 tion, the term ‘officer or employee of the Federal Govern-  
24 ment’ includes—

25 “(1) the President;

1 “(2) a Member of Congress;

2 “(3) a member of the uniformed services;

3 “(4) an employee (as that term is defined in  
4 section 2105);

5 “(5) an employee of the United States Postal  
6 Service or the Postal Regulatory Commission; and

7 “(6) an employee appointed under chapter 73  
8 or 74 of title 38.”.

9 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
10 tions for subchapter II of chapter 72 of title 5,  
11 United States Code, is amended by striking the item  
12 related to section 7211 and inserting the following:

“7211. Employees’ right to petition or furnish information or respond to Con-  
gress.”.

13 **SEC. 803. ENHANCEMENT OF WHISTLEBLOWER PROTEC-**  
14 **TIONS.**

15 (a) DISCLOSURES RELATING TO OFFICERS OR EM-  
16 PLOYEES OF AN OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—Sec-  
17 tion 1213(c) of title 5, United States Code, is amended  
18 by adding at the end the following:

19 “(3) If the information transmitted under this  
20 subsection disclosed a violation of law, rule, or regu-  
21 lation, or gross waste, gross mismanagement, abuse  
22 of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to  
23 public health or safety, by any officer or employee  
24 of an Office of Inspector General, the Special Coun-

1        sel may refer the matter to the Committee of Inspec-  
2        tors General for Integrity and Efficiency, which shall  
3        comply with the standards and procedures applicable  
4        to investigations and reports under subsection (c).”.

5        (b) ENSURING TIMELY RELIEF.—

6            (1) INDIVIDUAL RIGHT OF ACTION.—Section  
7        1221 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by  
8        striking “section 2302(b)(8) or section  
9        2302(b)(9)(A)(i), (B), (C), or (D),” in each instance  
10       and inserting “section 2302(b)(8), section  
11       2302(b)(9)(A)(i), (B), (C), (D), or (E), section  
12       2302(b)(13), or section 2302(g),”.

13           (2) STAYS.—Section 1221(c)(2) of title 5,  
14       United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

15           “(2) Any stay requested under paragraph (1)  
16       shall be granted within 10 calendar days (excluding  
17       Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) after the  
18       date the request is made, if the Board determines  
19       that such a stay would be appropriate. If the stay  
20       request is denied, the employee, former employee, or  
21       applicant may, within 7 days after receiving notice  
22       of the denial, file an appeal for expedited review by  
23       the Board. The agency shall have 7 days thereafter  
24       to respond. The Board shall provide a decision not  
25       later than 21 days after receiving the appeal. During

1 the period of appeal, both parties may supplement  
2 the record with information unavailable to them at  
3 the time the stay was first requested.”.

4 (3) ACCESS TO DISTRICT COURT; JURY  
5 TRIALS.—Section 1221(i) of title 5, United States  
6 Code, is amended—

7 (A) by striking “(i) Subsections” and in-  
8 serting “(i)(1) Subsections”; and

9 (B) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(2)(A) If, in the case of an employee, former em-  
11 ployee, or applicant for employment who seeks corrective  
12 action from the Merit Systems Protection Board based on  
13 an alleged prohibited personnel practice described in sec-  
14 tion 2302(b)(8), section 2302(b)(9)(A)(i), (B), (C), (D),  
15 or (E), section 2302(b)(13), or section 2302(g), no final  
16 order or decision is issued by the Board within 180 days  
17 after the date on which a request for such corrective action  
18 has been duly submitted to the Board, such employee,  
19 former employee, or applicant may, after providing written  
20 notice to the Special Counsel and the Board and only with-  
21 in 20 days after providing such notice, bring an action  
22 for review de novo before the appropriate United States  
23 district court, and such action shall, at the request of ei-  
24 ther party to such action, be tried before a jury. Upon  
25 filing of an action with the appropriate United States dis-

1 strict court, any proceedings before the Board shall cease  
2 and the employee, former employee, or applicant for em-  
3 ployment waives any right to refile with the Board.

4 “(B) If the Board certifies (in writing) to the parties  
5 of a case that the complexity of such case requires a longer  
6 period of review, subparagraph (A) shall be applied by  
7 substituting ‘240 days’ for ‘180 days’.

8 “(C) In any such action brought before a United  
9 States district court under subparagraph (A), the court—  
10 “(i) shall apply the standards set forth in sub-  
11 section (e); and

12 “(ii) may award any relief which the court con-  
13 sider appropriate, including any relief described in  
14 subsection (g).”.

15 (c) RECIPIENTS OF WHISTLEBLOWER DISCLO-  
16 SURES.—Section 2302(b)(8)(B) of title 5, United States  
17 Code, is amended by striking “or to the Inspector General  
18 of an agency or another employee designated by the head  
19 of the agency to receive such disclosures” and inserting  
20 “the Inspector General of an agency, a supervisor in the  
21 employee’s direct chain of command up to and including  
22 the head of the employing agency, or to an employee des-  
23 ignated by any of the aforementioned individuals for the  
24 purpose of receiving such disclosures”.

1 (d) ATTORNEY FEES.—Section 7703(a) of title 5,  
2 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
3 following:

4 “(3) If an employee, former employee, or appli-  
5 cant for employment is the prevailing party under  
6 an appeal under this section, the employee, former  
7 employee, or applicant for employment shall be enti-  
8 tled to attorney fees for all representation carried  
9 out pursuant to this section. In such an action for  
10 attorney fees, the agency responsible for taking the  
11 personnel action shall be the respondent and shall be  
12 responsible for paying the fees.”.

13 (e) EXTENDING WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ACT  
14 TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES.—Section 2302(a)(2)(A) of title  
15 5, United States Code, is amended in the matter following  
16 clause (xiii)—

17 (1) by inserting “subsection (b)(9)(A)(i), (B),  
18 (C), (D), or (E), subsection (b)(13), or subsection  
19 (g),” after “subsection (b)(8),”; and

20 (2) by inserting after “title 31” the following:  
21 “, a commissioned officer or applicant for employ-  
22 ment in the Public Health Service, and a noncareer  
23 appointee in the Senior Executive Service”.

24 (f) RELIEF.—Section 7701(b)(2)(A) of title 5,  
25 United States Code, is amended by striking “upon the

1 making of the decision” and inserting “upon making of  
2 the decision, necessary to make the employee whole as if  
3 there had been no prohibited personnel practice, including  
4 training, seniority and promotions consistent with the em-  
5 ployee’s prior record,”.

6 **SEC. 804. CLASSIFYING CERTAIN FURLOUGHS AS ADVERSE**  
7 **PERSONNEL ACTIONS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7512 of title 5, United  
9 States Code, is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the  
11 end; and

12 (2) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the  
13 following:

14 “(5) a furlough of more than 14 days but less  
15 than 30 days; and

16 “(6) a furlough of 13 days or less that is not  
17 due to a lapse in appropriations;”.

18 (b) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by sub-  
19 section (a) shall apply to any furlough covered by such  
20 section 7512(5) or (6) (as amended by such subsection)  
21 occurring on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 805. CODIFICATION OF PROTECTIONS FOR DISCLO-**  
2 **SURES OF CENSORSHIP RELATED TO RE-**  
3 **SEARCH, ANALYSIS, OR TECHNICAL INFOR-**  
4 **MATION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2302 of title 5, United  
6 States Code, as amended by section 802(c)(1), is further  
7 amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(h)(1) In this subsection—

9 “(A) the term ‘applicant’ means an applicant  
10 for a covered position;

11 “(B) the term ‘censorship related to research,  
12 analysis, or technical information’ means any effort  
13 to distort, misrepresent, or suppress research, anal-  
14 ysis, or technical information; and

15 “(C) the term ‘employee’ means an employee in  
16 a covered position in an agency.

17 “(2)(A) Any disclosure of information by an employee  
18 or applicant for employment that the employee or appli-  
19 cant reasonably believes is evidence of censorship related  
20 to research, analysis, or technical information—

21 “(i) shall come within the protections of sub-  
22 section (b)(8)(A) if—

23 “(I) the employee or applicant reasonably  
24 believes that the censorship related to research,  
25 analysis, or technical information is or will  
26 cause—



1 “(aa) any violation of law, rule, or  
2 regulation; or

3 “(bb) gross mismanagement, a gross  
4 waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or  
5 a substantial and specific danger to public  
6 health or safety; and

7 “(II) such disclosure is not specifically pro-  
8 hibited by law or such information is not spe-  
9 cifically required by Executive order to be kept  
10 classified in the interest of national defense or  
11 the conduct of foreign affairs; and

12 “(ii) shall come within the protections of sub-  
13 section (b)(8)(B) if—

14 “(I) the employee or applicant reasonably  
15 believes that the censorship related to research,  
16 analysis, or technical information is or will  
17 cause—

18 “(aa) any violation of law, rule, or  
19 regulation; or

20 “(bb) gross mismanagement, a gross  
21 waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or  
22 a substantial and specific danger to public  
23 health or safety; and

24 “(II) the disclosure is made to the Special  
25 Counsel, or to the Inspector General of an

1           agency or another person designated by the  
2           head of the agency to receive such disclosures,  
3           consistent with the protection of sources and  
4           methods.

5           “(3) A disclosure shall not be excluded from para-  
6 graph (2) for any reason described under subsection (f)(1)  
7 or (2).

8           “(4) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to  
9 imply any limitation on the protections of employees and  
10 applicants afforded by any other provision of law, includ-  
11 ing protections with respect to any disclosure of informa-  
12 tion believed to be evidence of censorship related to re-  
13 search, analysis, or technical information.”.

14           (b) REPEAL.—

15           (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 110 of the Whistle-  
16 blower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012 (Public  
17 Law 112–199) is hereby repealed.

18           (2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this  
19 section shall be construed to limit or otherwise affect  
20 any action under such section 110 commenced be-  
21 fore the date of enactment of this Act or any protec-  
22 tions afforded by such section with respect to such  
23 action.

24 **SEC. 806. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

25           Title 5, United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in section 1212(h), by striking “or (9)” in  
2 each instance and inserting “, (b)(9), (b)(13), or  
3 (g)”;

4 (2) in section 1214(a)—

5 (A) by striking “section 2302(b)(8) or sec-  
6 tion 2302(b)(9)(A)(i), (B), (C), or (D)” in each  
7 instance and inserting “section 2302(b)(8), sec-  
8 tion 2302(b)(9)(A)(i), (B), (C), (D), or (E),  
9 section 2302(b)(13), or section 2302(g)”;

10 (B) in subsection (i), by striking “section  
11 2302(b)(8) or subparagraph (A)(i), (B), (C), or  
12 (D) of section 2302(b)(9)” and inserting “sec-  
13 tion 2302(b)(8), subparagraph (A)(i), (B), (C),  
14 (D), or (E) of section 2302(b)(9), section  
15 2302(b)(13), or section 2302(g)”;

16 (3) in section 1215, by striking “section  
17 2302(b)(8), or 2302(b)(9)(A)(i), (B), (C), or (D)” in  
18 each instance and inserting “section 2302(b)(8), sec-  
19 tion 2302(b)(9)(A)(i), (B), (C), (D), or (E), section  
20 2302(b)(13), or section 2302(g)”;

21 (4) in section 2302—

22 (A) in subsection (a)—

23 (i) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or  
24 (g)” after “subsection (b)”;

1 (ii) in paragraph (2)(C)(i), by striking  
2 “subsection (b)(8) or section  
3 2302(b)(9)(A)(i), (B), (C), or (D)” and in-  
4 serting “section 2302(b)(8), section  
5 2302(b)(9)(A)(i), (B), (C), (D), or (E),  
6 section 2302(b)(13), or section 2302(g)”;  
7 and  
8 (B) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking  
9 “paragraph (8) or subparagraph (A)(i), (B),  
10 (C), or (D) of paragraph (9) of subsection (b)”  
11 and inserting “paragraph (8), subparagraph  
12 (A)(i), (B), (C), or (D) of paragraph (9), or  
13 paragraph (13) of subsection (b) or subsection  
14 (g)”;  
15 (5) in section 7515(a)(2), by striking “para-  
16 graph (8), (9), or (14) of section 2302(b)” and in-  
17 serting “paragraph (8), (9), (13), or (14) of section  
18 2302(b) or section 2302(g)”;  
19 (6) in section 7701(c)(2)(B), by inserting “or  
20 section 2302(g)” after “section 2302(b)”;  
21 (7) in section 7703(b)(1)(B), by striking “sec-  
22 tion 2302(b)(8), or 2302(b)(9)(A)(i), (B), (C), or  
23 (D)” in each instance and inserting “section  
24 2302(b)(8), section 2302(b)(9)(A)(i), (B), (C), (D),  
25 or (E), section 2302(b)(13), or section 2302(g)”.

1      **Subtitle B—Reauthorization of**  
2      **Merit Systems Protection Board**

1       tion concerning applicants for Federal employ-  
2       ment.”.

3   **SEC. 814. WHISTLEBLOWER TRAINING FOR MSPB ADMINIS-**  
4       **TRATIVE JUDGES.**

5       Section 7701(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is  
6   amended to read as follows:

7           “(1) (A) The Board may hear any case ap-  
8       pealed to it or may refer the case to an administra-  
9       tive law judge appointed under section 3105 or other  
10      employee of the Board designated by the Board to  
11      hear such cases, except that any case involving—

12           “(i) a removal from the service shall be  
13      heard by the Board, an employee experienced in  
14      hearing appeals, or an administrative law judge;  
15      and

16           “(ii) an alleged prohibited personnel prac-  
17      tice in violation of section 2302(b)(8), section  
18      2302(b)(9)(A)(i), (B), (C) or (D), or section  
19      2302(b)(13) shall be heard by the Board or an  
20      administrative law judge or other employee of  
21      the Board designated by the Board to hear  
22      such cases who has successfully completed  
23      training regarding protections afforded by the  
24      Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989.

1 “(B) The Board, administrative law judge, or  
2 other employee shall make a decision after receipt of  
3 the written representations of the parties to the ap-  
4 peal and after opportunity for a hearing under sub-  
5 section (a)(1) of this section. A copy of the decision  
6 shall be furnished to each party to the appeal and  
7 to the Office of Personnel Management.”.

8 **Subtitle C—Whistleblowers of the**  
9 **Intelligence Community**

10 **SEC. 821. LIMITATION ON SHARING OF INTELLIGENCE**  
11 **COMMUNITY WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINTS**  
12 **WITH PERSONS NAMED IN SUCH COM-**  
13 **PLAINTS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title XII of the National Security  
15 Act of 1947, as added by section 711, is further amended  
16 by inserting after section 1205, as added by section  
17 713(c), the following new subtitle:

18 **“Subtitle B—Protections for**  
19 **Whistleblowers**

20 **“SEC. 1223. LIMITATION ON SHARING OF INTELLIGENCE**  
21 **COMMUNITY WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINTS**  
22 **WITH PERSONS NAMED IN SUCH COM-**  
23 **PLAINTS.**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any em-  
25 ployee or officer of the Federal Government to knowingly

1 and willfully share any whistleblower disclosure informa-  
2 tion with any individual named as a subject of the whistle-  
3 blower disclosure and alleged in the disclosure to have en-  
4 gaged in misconduct, unless—

5 “(1) the whistleblower consented, in writing, to  
6 such sharing before the sharing occurs;

7 “(2) a covered Inspector General to whom such  
8 disclosure is made—

9 “(A) determines that such sharing is nec-  
10 essary to advance an investigation, audit, in-  
11 spection, review, or evaluation by the Inspector  
12 General; and

13 “(B) notifies the whistleblower of such  
14 sharing before the sharing occurs; or

15 “(3) an attorney for the Government—

16 “(A) determines that such sharing is nec-  
17 essary to advance an investigation by the attor-  
18 ney; and

19 “(B) notifies the whistleblower of such  
20 sharing before the sharing occurs.

21 “(b) WHISTLEBLOWER DISCLOSURE INFORMATION  
22 DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘whistleblower disclo-  
23 sure information’ means, with respect to a whistleblower  
24 disclosure—

25 “(1) the disclosure;



1           “(2) confirmation of the fact of the existence of  
2       the disclosure; or

3           “(3) the identity, or other identifying informa-  
4       tion, of the whistleblower who made the disclosure.”.

5       (b) TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

6           (1) TRANSFER.—The National Security Act of  
7       1947 (50 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended as fol-  
8       lows:

9           (A) Section 1104 is—

10               (i) transferred to title XII of such  
11       Act, as added by section 711;

12               (ii) inserted before section 1223 of  
13       such Act, as added by this section; and

14               (iii) redesignated as section 1221.

15           (B) Section 1106 is—

16               (i) amended by striking “section  
17       1104” each place it appears and inserting  
18       “section 1221”;

19               (ii) transferred to title XII of such  
20       Act, as added by section 711;

21               (iii) inserted after section 1223 of  
22       such Act, as added by this section; and

23               (iv) redesignated as section 1225.

1           (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sec-  
2       tions at the beginning of the National Security Act  
3       of 1947 is amended—

4                   (A) by striking the items relating to sec-  
5       tion 1104 and section 1106; and

6                   (B) by inserting after the item relating to  
7       section 1205 the following new items:

“SUBTITLE B—PROTECTIONS FOR WHISTLEBLOWERS

“Sec. 1221. Prohibited personnel practices in the intelligence community.

“Sec. 1223. Limitation on sharing of intelligence community whistleblower com-  
                  plaints with persons named in such complaints.

“Sec. 1225. Inspector General external review panel.”.

8       (c) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3 of such Act (50 U.S.C.  
9       3003), as amended by section 711, is further amended by  
10      adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

11                   “(9) The term ‘whistleblower’ means a person  
12      who makes a whistleblower disclosure.

13                   “(10) The term ‘whistleblower disclosure’  
14      means a disclosure that is protected under section  
15      1221 of this Act or section 3001(j)(1) of the Intel-  
16      ligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of  
17      2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341(j)).”.

18      (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5331 of the  
19      Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intel-  
20      ligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019,  
21      and 2020 (division E of Public Law 116–92; 50 U.S.C.  
22      3033 note) is amended by striking “section 1104 of the

1 National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3234)” and in-  
2 serting “section 1221 of the National Security Act of  
3 1947”.

4 **SEC. 822. DISCLOSURES TO CONGRESS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title XII of the National Security  
6 Act of 1947, as added by section 711, is further amended  
7 by inserting after section 1225, as designated by section  
8 821(b), the following new section:

9 **“SEC. 1227. PROCEDURES REGARDING DISCLOSURES TO**  
10 **CONGRESS.**

11 “(a) GUIDANCE.—

12 “(1) OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE SECURITY DI-  
13 RECTION UPON REQUEST.—Upon the request of a  
14 whistleblower, the head of the relevant element of  
15 the intelligence community, acting through the cov-  
16 ered Inspector General for that element, shall fur-  
17 nish on a confidential basis to the whistleblower in-  
18 formation regarding how the whistleblower may di-  
19 rectly contact the congressional intelligence commit-  
20 tees, in accordance with appropriate security prac-  
21 tices, regarding a complaint or information of the  
22 whistleblower pursuant to section 103H(k)(5)(D) or  
23 other appropriate provision of law.

24 “(2) NONDISCLOSURE.—Unless a whistleblower  
25 who makes a request under paragraph (1) provides

1 prior consent, a covered Inspector General may not  
2 disclose to the head of the relevant element of the  
3 intelligence community—

4 “(A) the identity of the whistleblower; or

5 “(B) the element at which such whistle-  
6 blower is employed, detailed, or assigned as a  
7 contractor employee.

8 “(b) OVERSIGHT OF OBLIGATION.—If a covered In-  
9 spector General determines that the head of an element  
10 of the intelligence community denied a request by a whis-  
11 tleblower under subsection (a), directed the whistleblower  
12 not to contact the congressional intelligence committees,  
13 or unreasonably delayed in providing information under  
14 such subsection, the covered Inspector General shall notify  
15 the congressional intelligence committees of such denial,  
16 direction, or unreasonable delay.

17 “(c) PERMANENT SECURITY OFFICER.—The head of  
18 each element of the intelligence community may designate  
19 a permanent security officer in the element to provide to  
20 whistleblowers the information under subsection (a).”.

21 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
22 at the beginning of the National Security Act of 1947 is  
23 amended by inserting after the item relating to section  
24 1225, as added by section 821(b), the following new item:

“Sec. 1227. Procedures regarding disclosures to Congress.”.

1 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
2 103H(k)(5)(D)(i) of the National Security Act of 1947  
3 (50 U.S.C. 3033(k)(5)(D)(i)) is amended by adding at the  
4 end the following: “The employee may request information  
5 pursuant to section 1227 with respect to contacting such  
6 committees.”.

7 **SEC. 823. PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCLOSURE OF WHIS-**  
8 **TLEBLOWER IDENTITY AS REPRISAL**  
9 **AGAINST WHISTLEBLOWER DISCLOSURE BY**  
10 **EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS IN INTEL-**  
11 **LIGENCE COMMUNITY.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (3) of subsection (a)  
13 of section 1221 of the National Security Act of 1947, as  
14 designated by section 821(b)(1)(A), is amended—

15 (1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “; or” and  
16 inserting a semicolon;

17 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as sub-  
18 paragraph (K); and

19 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (I) the fol-  
20 lowing:

21 “(J) a knowing and willful disclosure re-  
22 vealing the identity or other personally identifi-  
23 able information of such employee or such con-  
24 tractor employee without the express written  
25 consent of such employee or such contractor

1 employee or if the Inspector General determines  
2 such disclosure is necessary for the exclusive  
3 purpose of investigating a complaint or infor-  
4 mation received under section 8H of the Inspec-  
5 tor General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 8H);  
6 or”.

7 (b) APPLICABILITY TO DETAILEES.—Such subsection  
8 is amended by adding at the end the following:

9 “(5) EMPLOYEE.—The term ‘employee’, with  
10 respect to an agency or a covered intelligence com-  
11 munity element, includes an individual who has been  
12 detailed to such agency or covered intelligence com-  
13 munity element.”.

14 (c) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION FOR UNLAWFUL DIS-  
15 CLOSURE OF WHISTLEBLOWER IDENTITY.—Subsection  
16 (d) of such section is amended to read as follows:

17 “(d) ENFORCEMENT.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise pro-  
19 vided in this subsection, the President shall provide  
20 for the enforcement of this section.

21 “(2) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION FOR UNLAW-  
22 FUL, WILLFUL DISCLOSURE OF WHISTLEBLOWER  
23 IDENTITY.—In a case in which an employee of an  
24 agency, or other employee or officer of the Federal  
25 Government, takes a personnel action described in

1 subsection (a)(3)(J) against an employee of a cov-  
2 ered intelligence community element as a reprisal in  
3 violation of subsection (b) or in a case in which a  
4 contractor employee takes a personnel action de-  
5 scribed in such subsection against another con-  
6 tractor employee as a reprisal in violation of sub-  
7 section (c), the employee or contractor employee  
8 against whom the personnel action was taken may  
9 bring a private action for all appropriate remedies,  
10 including injunctive relief and compensatory and pu-  
11 nitive damages, against the employee or contractor  
12 employee who took the personnel action, in a Fed-  
13 eral district court of competent jurisdiction within  
14 180 days of when the employee or contractor em-  
15 ployee first learned of or should have learned of the  
16 violation.”.

17 **TITLE IX—ACCOUNTABILITY**  
18 **FOR ACTING OFFICIALS**

19 **SEC. 901. SHORT TITLE.**

20 This title may be cited as the “Accountability for Act-  
21 ing Officials Act”.

22 **SEC. 902. CLARIFICATION OF FEDERAL VACANCIES RE-**  
23 **FORM ACT OF 1998.**

24 (a) **FIRST ASSISTANT REQUIREMENTS.**—Section  
25 3345 of title 5, United States Code, is amended as follows:

1 (1) In subsection (a)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end  
3 before the semi-colon the following: “, but, and  
4 except as provided in subsection (e), only if the  
5 individual serving in the position of first assist-  
6 ant has occupied such position for a period of  
7 at least 30 days during the 365-day period pre-  
8 ceding the date of the death, resignation, or be-  
9 ginning of inability to serve”; and

10 (B) by striking subparagraph (A) of para-  
11 graph (3) and inserting the following:

12 “(A) the officer or employee served in a  
13 position in such agency for a period of at least  
14 1 year preceding the date of death, resignation,  
15 or beginning of inability to serve of the applica-  
16 ble officer; and”.

17 (2) By adding at the end the following:

18 “(d) For purposes of this section, a position shall be  
19 considered to be the first assistant to the office with re-  
20 spect to which a vacancy occurs only if such position has  
21 been designated, at least 30 days before the date of the  
22 vacancy, by law, rule, or regulation as the first assistant  
23 position. The previous sentence shall begin to apply on the  
24 date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of the  
25 Accountability for Acting Officials Act.



1       “(e) The 30-day service requirement in subsection  
2 (a)(1) shall not apply to any individual who is a first as-  
3 sistant if—

4               “(1) the office of such first assistant is an of-  
5 fice for which appointment is required to be made by  
6 the President, by and with the advice and consent  
7 of the Senate; and

8               “(2) the Senate has approved the appointment  
9 of such individual to such office.”.

10       (b) QUALIFICATIONS.—Section 3345(b) of title 5,  
11 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
12 following:

13       “(3) Any individual directed to perform the functions  
14 and duties of the vacant office temporarily in an acting  
15 capacity under subsection (a)(2) or (f) shall possess the  
16 qualifications (if any) set forth in law, rule, or regulation  
17 that are otherwise applicable to an individual appointed  
18 by the President, by and with the advice and consent of  
19 the Senate, to occupy such office.”.

20       (c) APPLICATION TO INDIVIDUALS REMOVED FROM  
21 OFFICE.—Paragraph (2) of section 3345(c) of title 5,  
22 United States Code, is amended by inserting after “the  
23 expiration of a term of office” the following: “or removal  
24 (voluntarily or involuntarily) from office”.

25       (d) VACANCY OF INSPECTOR GENERAL POSITIONS.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3345 of title 5,  
2       United States Code, as amended by subsection  
3       (a)(2), is further amended by adding at the end the  
4       following:

5       “(f)(1) Notwithstanding subsection (a), if an Inspec-  
6       tor General position that requires appointment by the  
7       President by and with the advice and consent of the Sen-  
8       ate to be filled is vacant, the first assistant of such posi-  
9       tion shall perform the functions and duties of the Inspec-  
10      tor General temporarily in an acting capacity subject to  
11      the time limitations of section 3346.

12      “(2) Notwithstanding subsection (a), if for purposes  
13      of carrying out paragraph (1) of this subsection, by reason  
14      of absence, disability, or vacancy, the first assistant to the  
15      position of Inspector General is not available to perform  
16      the functions and duties of the Inspector General, an act-  
17      ing Inspector General shall be appointed by the President  
18      from among individuals serving in an office of any Inspec-  
19      tor General, provided that—

20           “(A) during the 365-day period preceding the  
21      date of death, resignation, or beginning of inability  
22      to serve of the applicable Inspector General, the in-  
23      dividual served in a position in an office of any In-  
24      spector General for not less than 90 days; and

1           “(B) the rate of pay for the position of such in-  
2           dividual is equal to or greater than the minimum  
3           rate of pay payable for a position at GS–15 of the  
4           General Schedule.”.

5           (2) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by  
6           paragraph (1) shall apply to any vacancy first occur-  
7           ring with respect to an Inspector General position on  
8           or after the date of enactment of this Act.

9           (e) TESTIMONY OF ACTING OFFICIALS BEFORE CON-  
10          GRESS.—Section 3345 of title 5, United States Code, as  
11          amended by subsection (d)(1), is further amended by add-  
12          ing at the end the following:

13          “(g)(1) Any individual serving as an acting officer  
14          due to a vacancy to which this section applies, or any indi-  
15          vidual who has served in such capacity and continues to  
16          perform the same or similar duties beyond the time limits  
17          described in section 3346, shall appear, at least once dur-  
18          ing any 60-day period that the individual is so serving,  
19          before the appropriate committees of jurisdiction of the  
20          House of Representatives and the Senate.

21          “(2) Paragraph (1) may be waived upon mutual  
22          agreement of the chairs and ranking minority members  
23          of such committees.”.

24          (f) TIME LIMITATION FOR PRINCIPAL OFFICERS.—  
25          Section 3346 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “or as pro-  
2 vided in subsection (d)” after “sickness”; and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(d) With respect to the vacancy of the position of  
5 head of any agency listed in subsection (b) of section 901  
6 of title 31, or any other position that is within the Presi-  
7 dent’s cabinet and to which this section applies, sub-  
8 sections (a) through (c) of this section and sections  
9 3348(c), 3349(b), and 3349a(b) shall be applied by sub-  
10 stituting ‘120’ for ‘210’ in each instance.”.

11 (g) EXCLUSIVITY.—Section 3347 of title 5, United  
12 States Code, is amended—

13 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-  
14 section (c); and

15 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
16 lowing:

17 “(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), any statutory  
18 provision covered under paragraph (1) of such subsection  
19 that contains a non-discretionary order or directive to des-  
20 ignate an officer or employee to perform the functions and  
21 duties of a specified office temporarily in an acting capac-  
22 ity shall be the exclusive means for temporarily author-  
23 izing an acting official to perform the functions and duties  
24 of such office.”.

25 (h) REPORTING OF VACANCIES.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3349 of title 5,  
2       United States Code, is amended—

3           (A) in subsection (a)—

4                 (i) by striking “immediately upon” in  
5                 each instance and inserting “not later than  
6                 7 days after”;

7                 (ii) in paragraph (3), by striking  
8                 “and” at the end;

9                 (iii) in paragraph (4), by striking the  
10                 period at the end and inserting “; and”;  
11                 and

12                 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-  
13                 lowing:

14                 “(5) notification of the end of the term of serv-  
15                 ice of any person serving in an acting capacity and  
16                 the name of any subsequent person serving in an  
17                 acting capacity and the date the service of such sub-  
18                 sequent person began not later than 7 days after  
19                 such date.”; and

20           (B) in subsection (b), by striking “imme-  
21                 diately” and inserting “not later than 14 days  
22                 after the date of such determination”.

23           (2) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Paragraphs  
24           (1) and (2) of subsection (b) of such section 3349  
25           are amended to read as follows:

1 “(1) the Committee on Homeland Security and  
2 Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

3 “(2) the Committee on Oversight and Reform  
4 of the House of Representatives;”.

5 (i) VACANCIES DURING PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL  
6 TRANSITIONS.—Subsection (b) of section 3349a of title 5,  
7 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

8 “(b) Notwithstanding section 3346 (except as pro-  
9 vided in paragraph (2) of this subsection) or 3348(c), with  
10 respect to any vacancy that exists on a transitional inau-  
11 guration day, or that arises during the 60-day period be-  
12 ginning on such day, the person serving as an acting offi-  
13 cer as described under section 3345 may serve in the of-  
14 fice—

15 “(1) for no longer than 300 days beginning on  
16 such day; or

17 “(2) subject to subsection 3346(b), once a first  
18 or second nomination for the office is submitted to  
19 the Senate, from the date of such nomination for the  
20 period that the nomination is pending in the Sen-  
21 ate.”.

1 **TITLE X—STRENGTHENING**  
2 **HATCH ACT ENFORCEMENT**  
3 **AND PENALTIES**

4 **SEC. 1001. SHORT TITLE.**

5 This title may be cited as the “Hatch Act Account-  
6 ability Act”.

7 **SEC. 1002. STRENGTHENING HATCH ACT ENFORCEMENT**  
8 **AND PENALTIES AGAINST POLITICAL AP-**  
9 **POINTEES.**

10 (a) INVESTIGATIONS BY OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUN-  
11 SEL.—Section 1216 of title 5, United States Code, as  
12 amended by section 307, is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (c), by striking “(1),”; and

14 (2) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(e)(1) In addition to the authority otherwise pro-  
16 vided in this chapter, the Special Counsel—

17 “(A) shall conduct an investigation with respect  
18 to any allegation concerning political activity prohib-  
19 ited under subchapter III of chapter 73 (relating to  
20 political activities by Federal employees); and

21 “(B) may, regardless of whether the Special  
22 Counsel has received an allegation, conduct any in-  
23 vestigation as the Special Counsel considers nec-  
24 essary concerning political activity prohibited under  
25 such subchapter.

1       “(2) With respect to any investigation under para-  
2 graph (1), the Special Counsel may seek corrective action  
3 under section 1214 and disciplinary action under section  
4 1215 in the same way as if a prohibited personnel practice  
5 were involved.

6       “(f)(1) Consistent with paragraph (3), if after an in-  
7 vestigation under subsection (d)(1) the Special Counsel  
8 determines that a political appointee has violated section  
9 7323 or 7324, the Special Counsel may assess an adminis-  
10 trative fine, not to exceed \$50,000, against such political  
11 appointee.

12       “(2)(A) Any political appointee assessed a fine under  
13 paragraph (1) shall have the opportunity to request a  
14 hearing in a time and manner prescribed for by regula-  
15 tions issued by the Special Counsel.

16       “(B) If a political appointee assessed a fine under  
17 paragraph (1) does not request a hearing under subpara-  
18 graph (A), the decision of the Special Counsel finding a  
19 violation and assessing a fine shall be considered a final  
20 decision and shall not be subject to judicial review.

21       “(C) If a political appointee requests a hearing under  
22 subparagraph (A), the Special Counsel shall conduct a  
23 hearing in accordance with section 554 and issue a final  
24 decision not more than 30 days after the conclusion of  
25 the hearing.



1 “(D) Not later than 30 days after the issuance of  
2 a final decision by the Special Counsel under subpara-  
3 graph (C), the political appointee who is the subject of  
4 the final decision may file an action seeking judicial review  
5 in accordance with section 702.

6 “(E) Consistent with paragraph (3), the Special  
7 Counsel may file a civil action in the district courts of the  
8 United States seeking an order and such other relief as  
9 the court deems appropriate to enforce a final decision by  
10 the Special Counsel under this paragraph.

11 “(3) The Special Counsel may not assess an adminis-  
12 trative fine or file a civil action to enforce a final decision  
13 of the Special Counsel under paragraph (2)—

14 “(A) unless no disciplinary action or civil pen-  
15 alty has been taken or assessed, respectively, against  
16 the political appointee pursuant to section 7326; and

17 “(B) until on or after the date that is 90 days  
18 after the date that the complaint regarding the polit-  
19 ical appointee was presented to the President under  
20 section 1215(b).

21 “(4)(A) Not later than 90 days after receiving from  
22 the Special Counsel a complaint recommending discipli-  
23 nary action under section 1215(b) with respect to a polit-  
24 ical appointee for a violation of section 7323 or 7324, the  
25 President shall provide a written statement to the Special

1 Counsel on whether the President imposed the rec-  
2 ommended disciplinary action, imposed another form of  
3 disciplinary action, or took no disciplinary action against  
4 the political appointee.

5 “(B) Not later than 14 days after receiving a written  
6 statement under subparagraph (A)—

7 “(i) the Special Counsel shall submit the writ-  
8 ten statement to the Committee on Oversight and  
9 Reform of the House of Representatives and the  
10 Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental  
11 Affairs of the Senate; and

12 “(ii) publish the written statement on the public  
13 website of the Office of Special Counsel.

14 “(5) Not later than 14 days after the date that the  
15 Special Counsel determines a political appointee has vio-  
16 lated section 7323 or 7324, the Special Counsel shall—

17 “(A) submit a report on the investigation into  
18 such political appointee, and any communications  
19 sent from the Special Counsel to the President rec-  
20 ommending discipline of such political appointee, to  
21 the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the  
22 House of Representatives and the Committee on  
23 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the  
24 Senate; and

1           “(B) publish the report and such communica-  
2           tions on the public website of the Office of Special  
3           Counsel.

4           “(6) In this subsection, the term ‘political appointee’  
5           means any individual, other than the President and the  
6           Vice-President, employed or holding office—

7           “(A) in the Executive Office of the President,  
8           the Office of the Vice President, and any other office  
9           of the White House, but not including any career  
10          employee; or

11          “(B) in a confidential, policy-making, policy-de-  
12          termining, or policy-advocating position appointed by  
13          the President, by and with the advice and consent  
14          of the Senate (other than an individual in the For-  
15          eign Service of the United States).”.

16          (b) CLARIFICATION ON APPLICATION OF HATCH ACT  
17          TO EOP AND OVP EMPLOYEES.—Section 7322(1)(A) of  
18          title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after  
19          “Executive agency” the following: “, including the Execu-  
20          tive Office of the President, the Office of the Vice Presi-  
21          dent, and any other office of the White House,”.

1 **DIVISION C—DEFENDING ELEC-**  
2 **TIONS AGAINST FOREIGN IN-**  
3 **TERFERENCE**

4 **TITLE XI—REPORTING FOREIGN**  
5 **INTERFERENCE IN ELECTIONS**

6 **SEC. 1101. FEDERAL CAMPAIGN REPORTING OF FOREIGN**  
7 **CONTACTS.**

8 (a) INITIAL NOTICE.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 304 of the Federal  
10 Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104)  
11 is amended by adding at the end the following new  
12 subsection:

13 “(j) DISCLOSURE OF REPORTABLE FOREIGN CON-  
14 TACTS.—

15 “(1) COMMITTEE OBLIGATION TO NOTIFY.—  
16 Not later than 1 week after a reportable foreign con-  
17 tact, each political committee shall notify the Fed-  
18 eral Bureau of Investigation and the Commission of  
19 the reportable foreign contact and provide a sum-  
20 mary of the circumstances with respect to such re-  
21 portable foreign contact. The Federal Bureau of In-  
22 vestigation, not later than 1 week after receiving a  
23 notification from a political committee under this  
24 paragraph, shall submit to the political committee,  
25 the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of

1 the House of Representatives, and the Select Com-  
2 mittee on Intelligence of the Senate written or elec-  
3 tronic confirmation of receipt of the notification.

4 “(2) INDIVIDUAL OBLIGATION TO NOTIFY.—  
5 Not later than 3 days after a reportable foreign con-  
6 tact—

7 “(A) each candidate and each immediate  
8 family member of a candidate shall notify the  
9 treasurer or other designated official of the  
10 principal campaign committee of such candidate  
11 of the reportable foreign contact and provide a  
12 summary of the circumstances with respect to  
13 such reportable foreign contact; and

14 “(B) each official, employee, or agent of a  
15 political committee shall notify the treasurer or  
16 other designated official of the committee of the  
17 reportable foreign contact and provide a sum-  
18 mary of the circumstances with respect to such  
19 reportable foreign contact.

20 “(3) REPORTABLE FOREIGN CONTACT.—In this  
21 subsection:

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘reportable  
23 foreign contact’ means any direct or indirect  
24 contact or communication that—

25 “(i) is between—

1 “(I) a candidate, an immediate  
2 family member of the candidate, a po-  
3 litical committee, or any official, em-  
4 ployee, or agent of such committee;  
5 and

6 “(II) an individual that the per-  
7 son described in subclause (I) knows,  
8 has reason to know, or reasonably be-  
9 lieves is a covered foreign national;  
10 and

11 “(ii) the person described in clause  
12 (i)(I) knows, has reason to know, or rea-  
13 sonably believes involves—

14 “(I) an offer or other proposal  
15 for a contribution, donation, expendi-  
16 ture, disbursement, or solicitation de-  
17 scribed in section 319; or

18 “(II) coordination or collabora-  
19 tion with, an offer or provision of in-  
20 formation or services to or from, or  
21 persistent and repeated contact with,  
22 a covered foreign national in connec-  
23 tion with an election.

24 “(B) EXCEPTIONS.—

1                   “(i) CONTACTS IN OFFICIAL CAPACITY  
2 AS ELECTED OFFICIAL.—The term ‘report-  
3 able foreign contact’ shall not include any  
4 contact or communication with a covered  
5 foreign national by an elected official or an  
6 employee of an elected official solely in an  
7 official capacity as such an official or em-  
8 ployee.

9                   “(ii) CONTACTS FOR PURPOSES OF  
10 ENABLING OBSERVATION OF ELECTIONS  
11 BY INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS.—The  
12 term ‘reportable foreign contact’ shall not  
13 include any contact or communication with  
14 a covered foreign national by any person  
15 which is made for purposes of enabling the  
16 observation of elections in the United  
17 States by a foreign national or the obser-  
18 vation of elections outside of the United  
19 States by a candidate, political committee,  
20 or any official, employee, or agent of such  
21 committee.

22                   “(iii) EXCEPTIONS NOT APPLICABLE  
23 IF CONTACTS OR COMMUNICATIONS IN-  
24 VOLVE PROHIBITED DISBURSEMENTS.—A  
25 contact or communication by an elected of-

1           ficial or an employee of an elected official  
2           shall not be considered to be made solely  
3           in an official capacity for purposes of  
4           clause (i), and a contact or communication  
5           shall not be considered to be made for pur-  
6           poses of enabling the observation of elec-  
7           tions for purposes of clause (ii), if the con-  
8           tact or communication involves a contribu-  
9           tion, donation, expenditure, disbursement,  
10          or solicitation described in section 319.

11           “(C) COVERED FOREIGN NATIONAL DE-  
12          FINED.—

13                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—In this paragraph,  
14           the term ‘covered foreign national’  
15           means—

16                           “(I) a foreign principal (as de-  
17                   fined in section 1(b) of the Foreign  
18                   Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22  
19                   U.S.C. 611(b)) that is a government  
20                   of a foreign country or a foreign polit-  
21                   ical party;

22                           “(II) any person who acts as an  
23                   agent, representative, employee, or  
24                   servant, or any person who acts in  
25                   any other capacity at the order, re-



1                   quest, or under the direction or con-  
2                   trol, of a foreign principal described in  
3                   subclause (I) or of a person any of  
4                   whose activities are directly or indi-  
5                   rectly supervised, directed, controlled,  
6                   financed, or subsidized in whole or in  
7                   major part by a foreign principal de-  
8                   scribed in subclause (I); or

9                   “(III) any person included in the  
10                  list of specially designated nationals  
11                  and blocked persons maintained by  
12                  the Office of Foreign Assets Control  
13                  of the Department of the Treasury  
14                  pursuant to authorities relating to the  
15                  imposition of sanctions relating to the  
16                  conduct of a foreign principal de-  
17                  scribed in subclause (I).

18                 “(ii) CLARIFICATION REGARDING AP-  
19                 PLICATION TO CITIZENS OF THE UNITED  
20                 STATES.—In the case of a citizen of the  
21                 United States, subclause (II) of clause (i)  
22                 applies only to the extent that the person  
23                 involved acts within the scope of that per-  
24                 son’s status as the agent of a foreign prin-

1                    cipal described in subclause (I) of clause  
2                    (i).

3                    “(4) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER.—In this  
4                    subsection, the term ‘immediate family member’  
5                    means, with respect to a candidate, a parent, parent-  
6                    in-law, spouse, adult child, or sibling.”.

7                    (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made  
8                    by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to report-  
9                    able foreign contacts which occur on or after the  
10                   date of the enactment of this Act.

11                   (b) INFORMATION INCLUDED ON REPORT.—

12                   (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 304(b) of such Act  
13                   (52 U.S.C. 30104(b)) is amended—

14                   (A) by striking “and” at the end of para-  
15                   graph (7);

16                   (B) by striking the period at the end of  
17                   paragraph (8) and inserting “; and”; and

18                   (C) by adding at the end the following new  
19                   paragraph:

20                   “(9) for any reportable foreign contact (as de-  
21                   fined in subsection (j)(3))—

22                   “(A) the date, time, and location of the  
23                   contact;

1           “(B) the date and time of when a des-  
2           ignated official of the committee was notified of  
3           the contact;

4           “(C) the identity of individuals involved;  
5           and

6           “(D) a description of the contact, including  
7           the nature of any contribution, donation, ex-  
8           penditure, disbursement, or solicitation involved  
9           and the nature of any activity described in sub-  
10          section (j)(3)(A)(ii)(II) involved.”.

11          (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made  
12          by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to reports  
13          filed on or after the expiration of the 60-day period  
14          which begins on the date of the enactment of this  
15          Act.

16   **SEC. 1102. FEDERAL CAMPAIGN FOREIGN CONTACT RE-**  
17           **PORTING COMPLIANCE SYSTEM.**

18          (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 302 of the Federal Elec-  
19          tion Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30102) is amended  
20          by adding at the end the following new subsection:

21          “(j) REPORTABLE FOREIGN CONTACTS COMPLIANCE  
22          POLICY.—

23               “(1) REPORTING.—Each political committee  
24               shall establish a policy that requires all officials, em-  
25               ployees, and agents of such committee to notify the

1 treasurer or other appropriate designated official of  
2 the committee of any reportable foreign contact (as  
3 defined in section 304(j)) not later than 3 days after  
4 such contact was made.

5 “(2) RETENTION AND PRESERVATION OF  
6 RECORDS.—Each political committee shall establish  
7 a policy that provides for the retention and preserva-  
8 tion of records and information related to reportable  
9 foreign contacts (as so defined) for a period of not  
10 less than 3 years.

11 “(3) CERTIFICATION.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon filing its state-  
13 ment of organization under section 303(a), and  
14 with each report filed under section 304(a), the  
15 treasurer of each political committee (other  
16 than an authorized committee) shall certify  
17 that—

18 “(i) the committee has in place poli-  
19 cies that meet the requirements of para-  
20 graphs (1) and (2);

21 “(ii) the committee has designated an  
22 official to monitor compliance with such  
23 policies; and

24 “(iii) not later than 1 week after the  
25 beginning of any formal or informal affili-

1                   ation with the committee, all officials, em-  
2                   ployees, and agents of such committee  
3                   will—

4                   “(I) receive notice of such poli-  
5                   cies;

6                   “(II) be informed of the prohibi-  
7                   tions under section 319; and

8                   “(III) sign a certification affirm-  
9                   ing their understanding of such poli-  
10                  cies and prohibitions.

11               “(B) AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES.—With  
12               respect to an authorized committee, the can-  
13               didate shall make the certification required  
14               under subparagraph (A).”.

15       (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

16               (1) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by  
17               subsection (a) shall apply with respect to political  
18               committees which file a statement of organization  
19               under section 303(a) of the Federal Election Cam-  
20               paign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30103(a)) on or after  
21               the date of the enactment of this Act.

22               (2) TRANSITION RULE FOR EXISTING COMMIT-  
23               TEES.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the  
24               enactment of this Act, each political committee  
25               under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971

1       shall file a certification with the Federal Election  
2       Commission that the committee is in compliance  
3       with the requirements of section 302(j) of such Act  
4       (as added by subsection (a)).

5   **SEC. 1103. CRIMINAL PENALTIES.**

6       Section 309(d)(1) of the Federal Election Campaign  
7   Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30109(d)(1)) is amended by add-  
8   ing at the end the following new subparagraphs:

9       “(E) Any person who knowingly and willfully com-  
10   mits a violation of subsection (j) or (b)(9) of section 304  
11   or section 302(j) shall be fined not more than \$500,000,  
12   imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

13       “(F) Any person who knowingly and willfully conceals  
14   or destroys any materials relating to a reportable foreign  
15   contact (as defined in section 304(j)) shall be fined not  
16   more than \$1,000,000, imprisoned not more than 5 years,  
17   or both.”.

18   **SEC. 1104. REPORT TO CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE**  
19                   **COMMITTEES.**

20       (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
21   date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,  
22   the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall  
23   submit to the congressional intelligence committees a re-  
24   port relating to notifications received by the Federal Bu-  
25   reau of Investigation under section 304(j)(1) of the Fed-

1 eral Election Campaign Act of 1971 (as added by section  
2 1101(a) of this Act).

3 (b) ELEMENTS.—Each report under subsection (a)  
4 shall include, at a minimum, the following with respect  
5 to notifications described in subsection (a):

6 (1) The number of such notifications received  
7 from political committees during the year covered by  
8 the report.

9 (2) A description of protocols and procedures  
10 developed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation re-  
11 lating to receipt and maintenance of records relating  
12 to such notifications.

13 (3) With respect to such notifications received  
14 during the year covered by the report, a description  
15 of any subsequent actions taken by the Director re-  
16 sulting from the receipt of such notifications.

17 (c) CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES  
18 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “congressional intel-  
19 ligence committees” has the meaning given that term in  
20 section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C.  
21 3003).

22 **SEC. 1105. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

23 Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this  
24 title shall be construed—

1 (1) to impede legitimate journalistic activities;

2 or

3 (2) to impose any additional limitation on the  
4 right to express political views or to participate in  
5 public discourse of any individual who—

6 (A) resides in the United States;

7 (B) is not a citizen of the United States or  
8 a national of the United States, as defined in  
9 section 101(a)(22) of the Immigration and Na-  
10 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(22)); and

11 (C) is not lawfully admitted for permanent  
12 residence, as defined by section 101(a)(20) of  
13 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
14 1101(a)(20)).

15 **TITLE XII—ELIMINATING FOR-**  
16 **EIGN INTERFERENCE IN**  
17 **ELECTIONS**

18 **SEC. 1201. CLARIFICATION OF APPLICATION OF FOREIGN**  
19 **MONEY BAN.**

20 (a) CLARIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF PROVISION  
21 OF CERTAIN INFORMATION AS CONTRIBUTION OR DONA-  
22 TION OF A THING OF VALUE.—Section 319 of the Federal  
23 Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121) is  
24 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
25 section:



1       “(c) CLARIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF PROVISION  
2 OF CERTAIN INFORMATION AS CONTRIBUTION OR DONA-  
3 TION OF A THING OF VALUE.—For purposes of this sec-  
4 tion, a ‘contribution or donation of money or other thing  
5 of value’ includes the provision of opposition research,  
6 polling, or other non-public information relating to a can-  
7 didate for election for a Federal, State, or local office for  
8 the purpose of influencing the election, regardless of  
9 whether such research, polling, or information has mone-  
10 tary value, except that nothing in this subsection shall be  
11 construed to treat the mere provision of an opinion about  
12 a candidate as a thing of value for purposes of this sec-  
13 tion.”.

14       (b) CLARIFICATION OF APPLICATION OF FOREIGN  
15 MONEY BAN TO ALL CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS  
16 OF THINGS OF VALUE AND TO ALL SOLICITATIONS OF  
17 CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS OF THINGS OF  
18 VALUE.—Section 319(a) of such Act (52 U.S.C.  
19 30121(a)) is amended—

20               (1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “promise  
21 to make a contribution or donation” and inserting  
22 “promise to make such a contribution or donation”;  
23               (2) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “donation”  
24 and inserting “donation of money or other thing of

1 value, or to make an express or implied promise to  
2 make such a contribution or donation,”; and

3 (3) by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-  
4 lows:

5 “(2) a person to solicit, accept, or receive (di-  
6 rectly or indirectly) a contribution or donation de-  
7 scribed in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph  
8 (1), or to solicit, accept, or receive (directly or indi-  
9 rectly) an express or implied promise to make such  
10 a contribution or donation, from a foreign na-  
11 tional.”.

12 (c) ENHANCED PENALTY FOR CERTAIN VIOLA-  
13 TIONS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 309(d)(1) of such  
15 Act (52 U.S.C. 30109(d)(1)), as amended by section  
16 1103, is further amended by adding at the end the  
17 following new subparagraph:

18 “(G)(i) Any person who knowingly and willfully com-  
19 mits a violation of section 319 which involves a foreign  
20 national which is a government of a foreign country or  
21 a foreign political party, or which involves a thing of value  
22 consisting of the provision of opposition research, polling,  
23 or other non-public information relating to a candidate for  
24 election for a Federal, State, or local office for the purpose  
25 of influencing the election, shall be fined under title 18,

1 United States Code, or imprisoned for not more than 5  
2 years, or both.

3 “(ii) In clause (i), each of the terms ‘government of  
4 a foreign country’ and ‘foreign political party’ has the  
5 meaning given such term in section 1 of the Foreign  
6 Agents Registration Act of 1938, as Amended (22 U.S.C.  
7 611).”.

8 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made  
9 by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to viola-  
10 tions committed on or after the date of the enact-  
11 ment of this Act.

12 **SEC. 1202. REQUIRING ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FOREIGN**  
13 **MONEY BAN BY POLITICAL COMMITTEES.**

14 (a) PROVISION OF INFORMATION BY FEDERAL ELEC-  
15 TION COMMISSION.—Section 303 of the Federal Election  
16 Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30103) is amended by  
17 adding at the end the following new subsection:

18 “(e) ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FOREIGN MONEY  
19 BAN.—

20 “(1) NOTIFICATION BY COMMISSION.—Not later  
21 than 30 days after a political committee files its  
22 statement of organization under subsection (a), and  
23 biennially thereafter until the committee terminates,  
24 the Commission shall provide the committee with a  
25 written explanation of section 319.

1 “(2) ACKNOWLEDGMENT BY COMMITTEE.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30  
3 days after receiving the written explanation of  
4 section 319 under paragraph (1), the committee  
5 shall transmit to the Commission a signed cer-  
6 tification that the committee has received such  
7 written explanation and has provided a copy of  
8 the explanation to all members, employees, con-  
9 tractors, and volunteers of the committee.

10 “(B) PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR SIGNA-  
11 TURE.—The certification required under sub-  
12 paragraph (A) shall be signed—

13 “(i) in the case of an authorized com-  
14 mittee of a candidate, by the candidate; or

15 “(ii) in the case of any other political  
16 committee, by the treasurer of the com-  
17 mittee.”.

18 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE; TRANSITION FOR EXISTING  
19 COMMITTEES.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by  
21 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to political  
22 committees which file statements of organization  
23 under section 303 of the Federal Election Campaign  
24 Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30103) on or after the date  
25 of the enactment of this Act.

1 (2) TRANSITION FOR EXISTING COMMITTEES.—

2 (A) NOTIFICATION BY FEDERAL ELECTION  
3 COMMISSION.—Not later than 90 days after the  
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal  
5 Election Commission shall provide each political  
6 committee under such Act with the written ex-  
7 planation of section 319 of such Act, as re-  
8 quired under section 303(e)(1) of such Act (as  
9 added by subsection (a)).

10 (B) ACKNOWLEDGMENT BY COMMITTEE.—  
11 Not later than 30 days after receiving the writ-  
12 ten explanation under subparagraph (A), each  
13 political committee under such Act shall trans-  
14 mit to the Federal Election Commission the  
15 signed certification, as required under section  
16 303(e)(2) of such Act (as added by subsection  
17 (a)).

18 **DIVISION D—SEVERABILITY**

19 **TITLE XIII—SEVERABILITY**

20 **SEC. 1301. SEVERABILITY.**

21 If any provision of this Act or any amendment made  
22 by this Act, or the application of a provision of this Act  
23 or an amendment made by this Act to any person or cir-  
24 cumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder  
25 of this Act, and the application of the provisions to any

1 person or circumstance, shall not be affected by the hold-  
2 ing.